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THE NEW CONFERENCE.

WHEN shall we be fairly done with the Russian war? The enemy has been thrashed—the heroes have been feasted—the Treaty of Peace has been signed—and there is work to be done at home, if anybody would set about it. Yet, with all this, it seems we are not at the end of the business. There must be another little treaty, or a revival of the old treaty, or something or other. The Russian Penelope keeps up the game of undoing all the web of agreement again—the suitor Powers can get no satisfaction from her; and so we are all as agitated again almost as ever.

Some people can fight, and some negotiate; but there are others who can do neither, and who first bungle one and then the other. Now, the English have borne very quietly the imperfections in the conduct of the war; and, justly proud of many of its glories, they were glad to find it end in Russian concessions—not great, indeed, but amounting to an admission of defeat. Surely, then, it is hard on this patient, this loyal, and this tranquil people, to find that Russia is not defeated, but is going to open the question anew, whether she was defeated or not. But it is only to be a question, people say, of secondary points altogether. The answer to this is by putting a few questions. Why, then, the Turkish intrigues? why the French intrigues? Does Russia usually make a fuss about nothing? It is not that Power's way. To do her justice, she is not an everyday braggart, but a silent and working Power. Why, who knew how great her offensive preparations against Turkey had been, till one fine day when she crossed the Pruth, and threw all Europe into a fever? It is not likely that she wants a new conference for nothing. Not she. Her line is to try and unsettle all about her relation to the Danube again—to break the Alliance—to disturb old questions and open new ones—and to undo all the work of last spring as well as she can. Now, she has a right to declare war, if she likes, again; but she has no right to obtain advantages, such as war could not get for her, by jugglery. We frankly say, that the honestest English policy would be to decline renewing the conference—to keep the fleet in the Black Sea till the provisions of the treaty were executed—and to meet the consequences, *more majorum*. Public sentiment has oddly

altered if the public would not be with a Minister acting resolutely in this manner.

But there are great difficulties, and delicate ones, which would meet this determination. The inducements to peace in Europe are overwhelming. The complex civil and commercial life of nations will not admit of such interruption. Then, every Government has its own "family skeleton," and wants to keep the cupboard shut, besides the universal or common skeleton—viz., the red one. Every high-class statesman in Europe will avoid war if he can; and there are now living none of those great and daring spirits who break through all considerations, and draw nations after them. This is not the generation for them. We are a quiet, working, reflective, and good-natured generation. Even defensive war we do not want to undertake, till compelled to do so.

But the resolute policy above-mentioned might endanger the peace, not only with Russia, but everywhere. France we do not think likely to join us in a further forcible resistance to Russia about the treaty. In the first place, we do not believe that the present race of French are warlike in sentiment. Certainly, the war was never so popular there as here. Again, the army and Emperor have won their laurels, and seem content with them—are less directly threatened in their interests by Russia than ourselves—and are more in harmony with her politics, and more distinguished by her favour. Should France, then, insist on conceding, what becomes of our resolve? We carry it out, say, with such kind of help as Austria would yield; and we have a war of England against Russia, with Europe secretly in Russia's favour, and hoping to see us drubbed. The Russians intrench themselves, in their former way, and "neutrals" pleasantly occupy the carrying trade and drive our shipowners into the "Gazette." As for the "expenses," why, they need no detail; and we need not say one word about the income-tax, which comes so punctually with the April leaves.

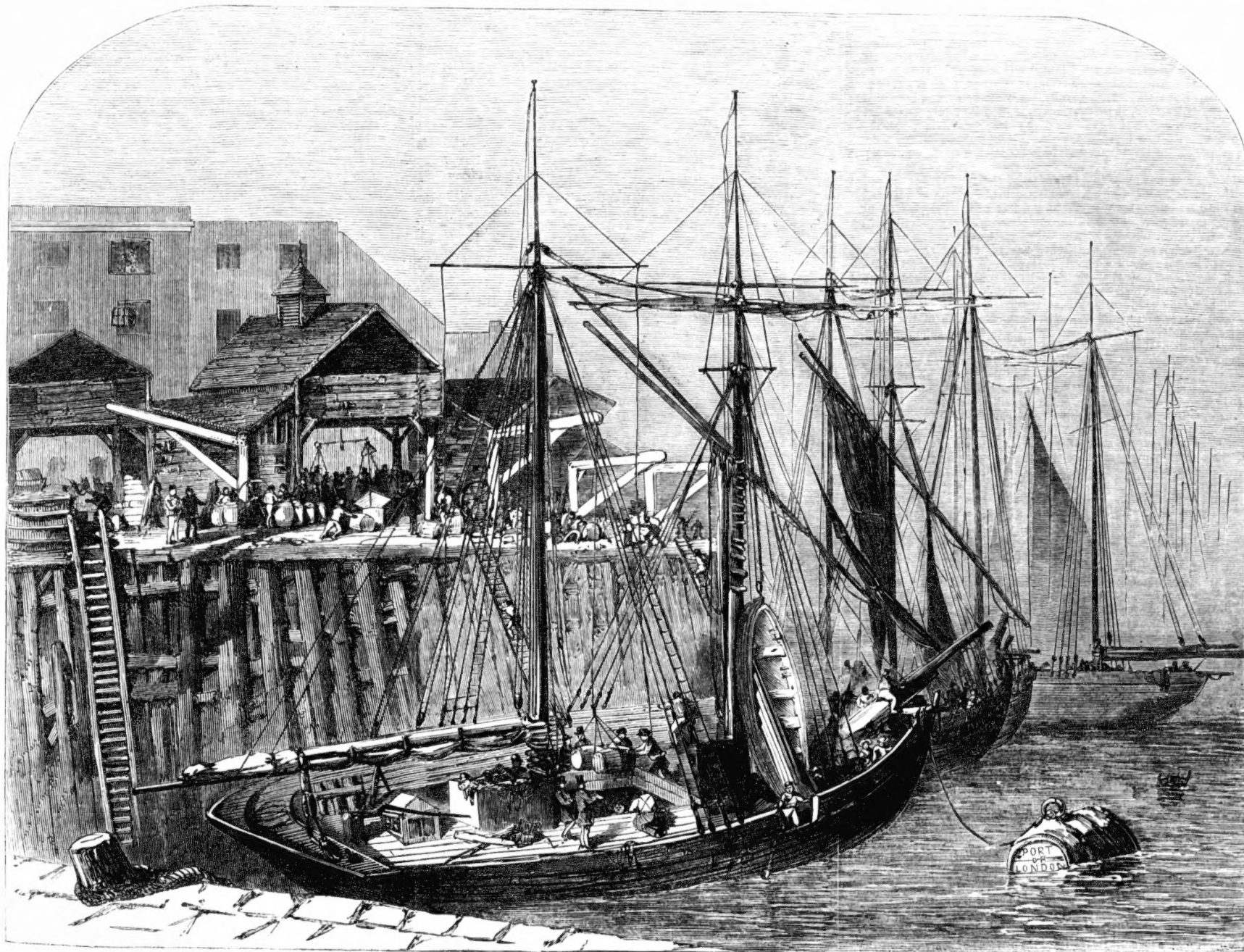
Considerations like these make the most dashing old gentlemen sober; and besides, the Whig old gentlemen want quiet, and do not want Kossuth or anything that would aid him. So, the best face will be put upon the conference; it will be artfully treated as a mere

matter of form, and Russia, it is to be hoped, will let us off cheap. It will be known from Finland to the Ganges that the great Northern potentate never meant these fellows to trench upon him in the kind of way talked about a while since, but has quietly (though firmly) removed them from his Bolgrad. Could he ever have intended to give up the Bolgrad which was of importance to him, or any but some insignificant Bolgrad, the position of which is hardly known to the Geographical Society?

The reader sees that we expect a Conference, and expect no good from it. After a great war, it is a petty business at best; and if it proves something greater, it will only prove so at England's expense. The spirit of anti-Russian resistance will evaporate in the fumes of diplomacy. After a good deal of cobbling, Russia will have gained in *prestige*, and probably have all the other Powers as firm friends, and us as insignificant enemies. Should the matter blow over, then the old original position will be resumed—Russia will continue slowly growing, and England relapse into the old oblivion of her and her doings.

Had we conducted the war otherwise, and better—had we continued the war, and done in the third year what our preparations justified us in expecting—had we not suffered France to lead us, and so enabled her to remain master of the situation, and be now the object of Russian blandishment and favour, we should not have found ourselves in this unsatisfactory position. For such, surely, the position is, when we are going to bend ourselves, in spite of our pride and rejoicings, to dispute as to whether we really attained a Treaty of Peace in spring or not. And we are going to do this virtually under the dictation of an Ally which has recently not scrupled to show us the cold shoulder in the sight of all Europe, and whose servile press barks at us as if it was going to burst its collar, whenever it is in unusual vigour.

Such is the present aspect of our Foreign affairs, and such the triumph of our diplomacy. The other questions at this meditated Conference—the Greek and the Prussian one—are comparatively unimportant. It is, of course, a farce to keep troops in Greece as a defiance of Russia, when Russia is beating us everywhere else; and



LANDING CHRISTMAS FRUITS AT FRESH WHARF, LONDON BRIDGE.

when we know that the Greeks will only hate us the more, and like Russia the better, the longer we are in taking away our regiments. Touching the Prussian matter, let us hope that a Court whose policy (from the contemplated alliance) must necessarily affect our own for many years, more or less, does not mean to risk disturbances in Europe for the sake of a knot of revolutionists who rose against an established government, and were justly locked up at once for their pains. It has always been a dangerous business to meddle with Switzerland; and the English—so "national" in their own feelings and sympathies—love most those states which can maintain their ancient national character and independence—images of the antique freedom—which sparkle like sheets of clear water among the morasses of despotism and imperialism.

LANDING CHRISTMAS FRUITS.

CHRISTMAS is coming fast upon us; and that he may be welcomed with the accustomed hospitality, all the good things of the season are being got ready for him. The turkey is receiving his last bolus; the fat ox is ruminating over his last oil-cake, and his noble heart is aching at the thought of the purpose to which his plump sirloins are to be dedicated; while, for the famed pudding, raisins, currants, almonds, and all the sweet spices that go to enrich its flavour, are daily arriving in our ports. It is chiefly at London, however, that crowds of fast-sailing schooners, from Spain and the islands of the Mediterranean, laden with fruits especially dedicated to the Christmas season, are continually dropping anchor. While we write, boxes of raisins, oranges, and figs, and bags of nuts and chestnuts, are being landed all day long at Fresh Wharf, close by Billingsgate; and to an individual possessed of the usual British love for pudding and dessert, the scene is one of some excitement. Who, we should like to know, can look on with indifference while the men jostle against each other, seemingly regardless of their delicious burdens, and fling about cases of oranges, and bags of chestnuts, without a thought for their luscious contents.

It is from a contemplation of the forests of ships that crowd the Pool, and of the crowded warehouses and wharves that line its banks, that the truest idea is to be gained of our national wealth. The scenes presented by these are most varied and striking in character, and have been so admirably daguerrotypied by Mr. Henry Mayhew, in the introduction to his "Great World of London," that we cannot refrain from quoting a few of its more picturesque passages. He thus describes the appearance which the river presented during an inspection he made of it from the long room of the Custom House, during a forced detention he had to undergo within the walls of that building:—

"The sun shone bright upon the water, and as its broken beams played upon the surface, it sparkled and twinkled in the light, like a crumpled plate of golden foil; and down the 'silent highway' barges, tide-borne, floated sideways, with their long slim oars projecting from their sides like fins of a flying fish; whilst others went along, with their masts slanting down and their windlass creaking as men laboured to raise the 'warm-brown' sail that they had lowered to pass under the bridge. Then came a raft of timber, towed by a small boat, and the boatman leaning far back in it as he tugged at the sculls; and presently a rapid river steamer fitted past, the deck crowded so densely with passengers that it reminded one of a cushion stuck all over with black pins; and, as it hurried past, we caught a whiff, as it were, of music from the little band on board."

The large square blocks of warehouses on the opposite shore were almost hidden in the shadow which came slanting down far into the river, and covering, as with a thick veil of haze, the confused knot of sloops and schooners and "blanders" that lay there in the dusk, in front of the wharves. Over the tops of the warehouses we could see the trail of white steam, from the railway engines at the neighbouring terminus, darting from among the roofs as they hurried to and fro.

A little way down the river stood a clump of Irish vessels, with the light peeping through the thicket, as it were, of their masts—some with their sails hanging all loose and limp, and others with them looped in rude festoons to the yards. Beside these lay barges stowed full of barrels of beer and sacks of flour; and a few yards further on, a huge foreign steamer appeared, with short thick black funnel and blue paddle-boxes. Then came boys laden with straw and d coasting goods, and sunk so deep in the water, that, as the steamers dashed by, the white spray was seen to beat against the dark tarpaulins that covered their heaped up cargoes. Next to these the black, surly-looking colliers were noted, huddled in a dense mass together, with the bare backs of the coalwhippers flashing among the rigging, as, in hoisting the "Wallend" from the hold, they leapt at intervals down upon the deck.

Behind, and through the tangled skeins of the rigging, the eye rested upon the old Suffrage wharves, with their peaked roofs and unwieldy cranes; and far at the back we caught sight of one solitary tree; whilst in the fog of the extreme distance the steeple of St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, loomed over the mast-heads—gray, dim, and spectral-like.

Then, as we turned round and looked towards the bridge, we caught glimpses of barges and boats moving in the broad acres of light showing through the arches; while above the bridge-parapet were seen just the tops of moving carts, and omnibuses, and high-loaded railway wagons, hurrying along in opposite directions.

Glancing thence to the bridge-wharves on the same side of the river as ourselves, we beheld bales of goods dangling in the air from the cranes that projected from the top of "Nicholson's." Here alongside the quay lay Spanish schooners and brigs, laden with fruits; and as we cast our eye below, we saw puppet-like figures of men with cases of oranges on their backs, bending beneath the load, on their way across the dumb-lighter to the wharf.

Next came Billingsgate, and here we could see the white bellies of the fish showing in the market beneath, and streams of men passing backwards and forwards to the river side, where lay a small crowd of Dutch eel boats, with their gutta-percha-like hulls, and unwieldy, green-tipped rudders. Immediately beneath us was the brown, gravelled walk of the Custom House quay, where trim children strolled with their nursemaids, and hatless and yellow-lipped Blue-coat Boys; and there were youths fresh from school, who had come either to have a peep at the shipping, or to skip and play among the barges.

From the neighbouring stairs boats pushed off continually, while men standing in the stern wriggled themselves along by working a skull behind, after the fashion of a fish's tail.

Here, near the front of the quay, lay a tier of huge steamers with gilt sterns and mahogany wheels, and their bright brass binnacles shining as if on fire in the sun. At the foremast head of one of these the "blue Peter" was flying as a summons to the hands on shore to come aboard, while the dense clouds of smoke that poured from the thick red funnel told that the boiler fires were ready lighted for starting.

In the distance towered the huge massive warehouses of St. Katherine's Dock, with their big signet letters on their sides, their many prison-like windows, and their cranes and doors to every floor. Beyond this, the view was barred out by the dense grove of masts that rose up from the water, thick as giant reeds beside the shore, and filmed over with the gray mist of vapour rising from the river, so that their softened outlines melted gently into the dusk.

As we stood looking down upon the river, the hundred clocks of the hundred churches at our back, with the golden figures on their black dials shining in the sun, chimed the hour of noon, and in a hundred different tones, while solemnly above all boomed forth the deep metallic moan of St. Paul's; and scarcely had the great bell ceased humming in the air, before there rose the sharp tinkling of eight bells from the decks of the multitude of sailing vessels and steamers packed below.

Indeed, there was an exquisite charm in the many different sounds that smote the ear from the busy port of London. Now we could hear the ringing of the "purlman's bell," as, in his little boat, he fitted in and out among the several tiers of colliers to serve the grimy and half-naked coalwhippers with drink. Then would come the rattle of some heavy chain suddenly let go, and after this the chorus of many seamen heaving at the ropes; whilst, high above all roared the hoarse voice of some one on the shore, bawling through his hands to a mate aboard the craft. Presently

came the clicking of the capstan-palls, telling of the heaving of a neighbouring anchor; and mingling with all this might be heard the rumbling of the wagons and carts in the streets behind, and the panting and throbbing of the passing river steamers in front, together with the shrill scream of the railway whistle from the terminus on the opposite shore.

In fine, look or listen in whatever direction we might the many sights and sounds that filled the eye and ear told each its different tale of busy trade, bold enterprise, and boundless capital. In the many bright-coloured flags that fluttered from the masts of the vessels crowding the port, we could read how all the corners of the earth had been ransacked, each for its peculiar produce. The massive warehouses at the water-side looked really like the storehouses of the world's infinite products, and the tall mast-like factory chimneys behind us, with their black plumes of smoke streaming from them, told us how all around that port were hard at work fashioning the products into cunning fabrics."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It is now definitely announced that a second Congress will meet in Paris, for the purpose of adjusting certain difficulties which have grown out of the execution of the Treaty of Peace signed at Paris. It would appear, however, that all the contracting Powers have not yet given in their adhesion to this arrangement: Turkey, it is said, has not given its assent, which, however, is considered certain.

The composition of the Conference, it is presumed, will be as follows:—M. Walewski, President; Lord Cowley, her Britannic Majesty's Representative; M. Habner, the Austrian Ambassador; M. Kisseleff, the Russian Ambassador; M. Hatzfeldt, the Prussian Minister; Djemil Bey, the Turkish Ambassador; and the Marquis Villamarina, the Piedmontese Minister. There is much gossip afloat as to the probable results of this Conference, all of which are best left to the development.

The "Moniteur" publishes a report from the Governor-General of Algeria, announcing a successful expedition against the Hamian tribes, and a skirmish with troops on the Morocco frontier.

Mr. Disraeli has been much fettered at Paris by the Court and Ministers, and has dined at the Tuileries. The Paris correspondent of the "Nord" writes, *apropos* of this fact, "Some of the most illustrious of English statesmen are evincing uneasiness at the manner in which public opinion in Europe condemns the turbulent politics of Lord Palmerston. The celebrated Tory orator, Mr. Disraeli, has expressed himself here upon this subject with much vivacity."

SPAIN.

A NUMBER of troops have been collected at Alicante to be embarked for Cuba, and the Government has notified its readiness to enlist young men nineteen years of age for military service in that island, even without the consent of their parents.

The civil guard in the course of November arrested seventy deserters from the provincial militia.

Another rise had taken place in wheat in the Madrid market; the bushel had fetched as much as 100 reals.

The works for conveying good water to the capital were advancing rapidly.

A fire, stated to be accidental, had destroyed the extensive mills of the canal company at Valladolid, and with them 3,000 arrobas of flour (the arroba is four gallons), but 4,000 arrobas of flour, and 14,000 bushels of wheat, were saved from the flames.

A bank of issue, with a capital of 18,000,000 reals in shares, has been established at Seville.

The "Gazette" publishes a decree fixing the elections of the municipal councils for the 5th of February next.

AUSTRIA.

TWENTY-FIVE political refugees, compromised in the Hungarian revolution, have been amnestied by an Imperial decree.

The Emperor Francis Joseph has also removed the sequestrations which had been imposed on the estates of the Lombard emigrants, without any exception; and ninety persons who had been condemned in the Italian provinces for the crimes of treason or of *lese majesté*, have received a complete amnesty.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

It is the general impression at Berlin that the affair of Neufchâtel will terminate in a compromise; but the King of Prussia will only negotiate with the Federal Government on the condition of the liberation of the prisoners. Now, this is the point on which the Federal Government seems most tenacious; and though it appears that both the French and Russian Ambassadors have urged the release of the prisoners, the Swiss have steadily refused compliance. This course, we are told, the English Ambassador approves. The Federal Tribunal assembled on Monday at Zurich, to settle the preliminaries of the trial of the Royalist prisoners from Neufchâtel. The trial itself will not come on for several weeks, unless, which is not improbable, it should be hastened with a view to adjust the position of Switzerland before the same can come under the diplomatic action of the Great Powers.

The King of Prussia was formally invested with the ensigns of the Legion of Honour on the 5th inst.

RUSSIA.

THE Second Army, under the command of General Liders, who is now on leave, is dissolved. The 4th, 5th, and 6th Army corps, of which the Second Army was originally composed, will resume their place as distinct corps. The system of reduction of the army in time of peace by sending a certain number of soldiers to their homes on unlimited furlough, has just been applied to the navy. This is a considerable relief for the treasury, and also for the part of the population destined for the naval service.

We are informed, by the "Morskoi Sbornik," that the garrison of the port of Astrachan, on the shore of the Caspian Sea, has been strengthened by the accession of three thousand men. This fact appears to furnish us with another proof that important movements are likely to take place in Central Asia before long.

The idea of fortifying St. Petersburg is being revived. General Todleben is naturally spoken of as the officer who will be entrusted with the drawing up of the plans.

ITALY.

ON Monday there was a review at Naples. While the troops were drilling, a soldier of the 3rd Battalion of Chasseurs rushed from the ranks and struck the King on the left side. His Majesty was only slightly wounded. The soldier was knocked down and seized.

A private telegraphic despatch from Marseilles announces that the movement in Sicily broke out in different districts of the provinces of Palermo and Caltanissetta. It commenced on the 22nd of November by the stopping of a diligence which runs between Palermo, Catania, and Messina. The insurgents numbered 60. In the night between the 22nd and 23rd of November, the Government sent two battalions of chasseurs-à-pied, commanded by General Guyon, against the insurgents. On the morning of the 23rd, two squadrons of chasseurs-à-cheval, with a field-battery, were also sent against them. The insurgents fled, and withdrew to Cefalù, leaving some prisoners. The troops, 800 strong, immediately followed in pursuit, surrounded the town, and took possession of it. At Catania, placards were posted up, but were immediately torn down by the police. On these placards were the words—"Long live the Hereditary Prince! Long live the Constitution of 1812!" A movement has also taken place in the island of Marsala. The insurrection is finally suppressed. Bentivegna, its leader, is a prisoner.

It is said that his Neapolitan Majesty has recently set at liberty a large number of political prisoners (30, 40, or 48, according to various accounts), and that it is understood that every one who will ask for pardon may obtain it; but there seems to be a strong feeling against soliciting liberty on the King's terms.

The students of Turin have opened a subscription among themselves for a sum sufficient to east a piece of ordnance for Alessandria. An in-

scription on the gun is to state the fact of its being a present from that body.

Verona was illuminated on the 3rd, to celebrate the amnesty granted by the Emperor of Austria, whose visit seems to have had a favourable effect on the popular mind, though it is expected not to be long. The Emperor has just granted a yearly sum of 20,000 ducats for the repair of the Cathedral of St. Mark, at Venice. Whenever the wish of the Emperor shall not be wanted in the course of the year, the remainder of the sum contained to increase the funds belonging to the cathedral, and the interest is likewise to be applied to keeping the edifice in repair.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

ACCORDING to intelligence from Constantinople of the 30th inst., the Divan had authorised the English fleet to winter at Smyrna.

Ministerial councils were taking place every day, and the Cabinet of Redschid Pacha was becoming established.

The Sultan had received, at an audience, General Durand, the representative of Sardinia.

The alleged capture of Herat was still doubtful. The conference opened by the English Embassy with Feruk-Khan appears likely to detain the latter at Constantinople for several months. The *personnel* of the English Embassy had left Teheran.

The same accounts state that Russia had demanded from the Shah of Persia a right of entry into the province of Makon.

The Beloochees had invaded the Persian territory on the side of Kerman. The army of occupation will winter in Greece.

AMERICA.

THE news from America has little interest. The journals were speculating, at latest dates, as to the prospects of the session and the policy of Mr. Buchanan's Administration.

Nine French political prisoners, who had escaped from Cayenne, had arrived at New York.

Advices from Guatemala speak of preparations being made to despatch a formidable force against Walker. 2,000 men were to be sent from Guatemala, 600 from San Salvador, and 1,000 from Costa Rica. These contingents would increase the number of the troops to some 8,000 men, all represented to be well equipped for service, and confident of quickly annihilating Walker and his partisans. It has recently been discovered, through the publication of a letter addressed to his agent, that Walker's aim is to establish a new southern republic independent of the United States. This, it seems, has aroused the American Government to a new view of the General's career.

AUSTRALIA.

The "Melbourne Herald" gives us a very cheerful view of the condition of Australia. It says:—"The gold fields—which every experiment and inquiry shows to be inexhaustible—are yielding a larger produce, and new ones are being opened in all directions. Quartz mining proves to be lucrative in skilful hands possessed of capital; and this being ascertained, a new complexion will be given to mining enterprise. Recent discoveries have been reported both of tin and silver, and a careful exploration is being made of a coal mine, said to have been found on the shores of Port Phillip. Quarries of slate and marble have been pointed out, and, best of all, not least, of all these additions to our wealth and comfort, a back of coal has been sprung, so to speak, in the neighbourhood of King's Island, Bass's Strait."

Mr. R. H. Horns, author of "Orion," is a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Chamber of Victoria.

THE SPANISH BOUNDARY QUESTION.—The "Moniteur" says:—"The plenipotentiaries of his Majesty the Emperor, and those of her Majesty the Queen of Spain, signed, on the 2nd of this month, at Bayonne, a treaty which regulates the boundary between France and Spain along the greater part of the extent of their frontiers. The International Act, concluded after a long negotiation, the duration of which is to be accounted for by the number and the nature of the questions which required a solution, now happily terminates some disputes which had been in existence ever since the year 1455, notwithstanding the efforts made at various intervals to substitute for them a more regular state of things."

IRELAND.

IRISH GIANTS.—One of the last of the mythical line of "Irish Giants," in the person of SHAWN NABORTREE, died at Connemara on Friday last. He was a man of unusual stature, to wit, seven feet in height, and weighing over twenty stone. His family, the Joyces, has been for many years one of the wonders of Connemara. He died at the age of seventy, and has left four stalwart sons.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.—It has now been ascertained that the money carried off by the assassin of Mr. Little was within £300. No other new fact of much importance has been made public with respect to this extraordinary murder. Another madman, a fitter on the railway, is in safe keeping in consequence of his uttering suspicious words about the crime. It is said the police are less sanguine as to tracing the criminal than they were.

DEATH OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP.—A mitre has been placed at the disposal of the Holy See by the death of the Right Rev. Bishop Murphy, of Cloyne, who recently expired at Fermoy. The prelate of the deceased has been very brief. He was consecrated on the 15th of September, 1849, his episcopal rule thus extending over little more than six years. He was a warm supporter of education, and never took any prominent part in affairs of a political character.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF PROPERTY.—Mr. Keys, the traveller for an extensive London house, recently lost a case containing nearly £2,000 worth of watches, while travelling by railway. Mr. Keys was about getting into the compartment of a second class carriage at Coleraine, taking the cases, &c., with him, when the guard of the train came forward and told him luggage must be put into the compartment reserved for it. The train being about to start, Mr. Keys permitted the guard to remove the parcels. On reaching Derry, to his dismay, he discovered that one case was not forthcoming. Only three or four passengers had travelled by the train, and of these but one had got out between Coleraine and Derry. The guard was at once taken into custody; he denied that he had taken the case into his hands at Coleraine, but said he had ordered a porter to carry the gentleman's luggage to its proper place. This the porter at Coleraine denies. The guard has since been liberated on his own recognisances.

BARON RICHARDS.—Baron Richards has ceased to be Commissioner of the Encumbered Estates Court, under the operation of a Royal warrant, received quite unexpectedly. Considerable surprise, and not a little gossip, have been occasioned by this sudden alteration.

MURDER AND ROBBERY.—A farmer named Quinn, resident at Granby, in Kilkenny, had attended the fair at Waterford, where he sold some stock, and having taken the precaution of lodging the cash in bank, was returning home with his deposit receipt in his pocket, not apprehending any danger. But although he had scarcely three miles to go, he was waylaid near Newrath by robbers, who, on his resisting a demand for his purse, beat him in the most inhuman manner, and carried off the bank receipt for the sum of £76 11s. 6d., as well as 3s. in silver which he had about him. The unfortunate man was carried home by some of his neighbours, who chanced to pass soon after, and, having lingered till the next evening, died of his wounds.

SCOTLAND.

LOST IN THE SNOW.—In the neighbourhood of Aberdeen a woman recently perished in a snow storm. While she lay starving to death, two men passed her, but they declared themselves to have been so much exhausted that they could do no more than roll her shawl about her, and put up her umbrella. A young man also perished near Montrose.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE AT GLASGOW.—At an early hour on Friday morning week a great fire, which lasted for several hours, broke out in Glasgow, attended with loss of life to one man and serious injuries to two others. The destruction of property is estimated at nearly £60,000, nearly the whole of which, however, is covered by insurances. The unfortunate man who lost his life was one of the firemen of the West of England Brigade, and was killed while actively engaged in his dangerous duty.

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW RAILWAY.—SERIOUS DISCLOSURES.—The directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, impelled by the repeated serious disclosures of official men south of the Tweed, recently resolved on instituting a rigid examination of the books employed by the clerks at every station on their line. The investigation extends over a period of two years, and already at some of the stations circumstances have been disclosed sufficient to warrant the decision of the directors.

THE PANMURE BANQUET.—Lord Panmure (says the "Arbroath Guide") has signified his intention of accepting the invitation to the public banquet to be given in his honour by the county and burghs, and has fixed Tuesday, the 30th inst., as the day on which it shall be held.

THE PROVINCES.

SMUGGLING OF A DUTCH GOVERNMENT PILOT BOAT FOR SMUGGLING.—A report has been received at Portsmouth by the capture or seizure of a pilot boat, on the charge of being most extensively engaged in smuggling tobacco into this country. Dutch and Belgian pilot boats are in the habit of sailing from the Channel to fall in with the various merchant ships homeward bound to the Dutch colonial possessions. These pilot-boats are the property of the Government, and not of individual pilots, as in this country. Some morning, about eight o'clock, a licensed waterman of the port named Richard Smith, with a large package in his possession in a back street named St. Andrew's, his antecedents, if nothing else, justified suspicion on the part of the House officers, and Jural was seized, when the package was found to contain a quantity of tobacco. Recalling himself at being placed in this position, he had received the tobacco from a Dutch pilot boat lying at Spithead. The House officers at once boarded and seized her, and took the master and crew into custody. We understand that about 4 cwt. of tobacco were found on board the vessel, and that it is of a similar description to that taken from the pilot boat.

EXPLOSION ON BOARD THE PARANA.—The inquiry on the bodies of the deceased by the explosion on board the steamer Parana is concluded. The inquiry was a very elaborate one, the substance of it being, that the deceased met their death by the accidental bursting of the starboard forward boiler on board the Parana, during the trial of an experiment as to the superfluous heat in the boiler, that by a great amount of caution the accident might have been prevented, that the evidence proves that one safety valve applied to one boiler is not sufficient protection to life and property; that it is questionable whether safety valves are constructed on sound and effective principles; that the safety valve of the boiler which caused the accident was insufficient in dimensions, and defective in principle; and, lastly, the jury declare their conviction that the Parana Company and their officers have displayed great anxiety to obtain possession in their machinery, and to guard against accidents, in having their engines and engines in good order.

DEATH IN LANCASHIRE.—Some time since the eldest daughter of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Lancashire Militia left her father's house, as was supposed, for the purpose of taking a walk, to call on a neighbouring family. She had been returned home when the darkness of the evening set in, she was alone alarmed; and on one of her sisters going into her bedroom, she found a note on her dressing-table, written by her missing sister, to the effect that she had gone to London, but not with —, meaning a gentleman who had been time previously proposed to pay his addresses to her; and that they should meet her in the course of a few days. The family were utterly at a loss to conjecture under what circumstances, or with whom, she had left her home. Inquiries of the men-servants and he had seen her throw a bundle out of her bedroom window, and then come down, take it up, and walk away with it; but supposing she might be taking to give to some poor neighbour, he thought no more about it. Inquiry being made at the nearest railway station, it was ascertained that she had been there alone, and had taken her fare to Manchester. A messenger was despatched to Manchester in pursuit, but no further trace of her could be found. But, a few days since, the Colonel received a letter from a friend of his in London, whom he had acquainted with the event, informing him that he had found the fugitive, and that she had been married the day before to a Monsieur S—, who had been an officer in the Italian Legion, which had been stationed at the barracks in Burnley. Her family had not the slightest suspicion that any intimacy had been formed between them. The lady is twenty-five years of age, and (we are told of interesting appearance; her husband is twenty-five, and is said to be of a noble family.

THE SUNDAY LEAGUE IN MAIDSTONE.—A meeting to explain the objects of the League, the opening of museums, the Crystal Palace, and other such places on Sundays was held in Maidstone last week. Considerable agitation was manifested as soon as it was known the League were to visit the town, and the members of the Church and of the Dissenting congregations resolved on a strong opposition. The Corn Exchange, where the meeting was held, was very early crowded, and after a most stormy discussion, an amendment, moved by Mr. D. D. Stewart, the member of the parish, to the effect that the objects of the League were unbecomingly and detrimental to the welfare of the parish, was adopted on a show of hands, the numbers being nearly two to one.

MR. CALDWELL AT OXFORD.—Mr. Caldwell attended a dinner at Oxford, a few days since, and in the course of a speech which he delivered he expressed his conviction that the war had led to an improvement in national law as it related to maritime warfare. He trusted that the Anglo-French alliance would be maintained. Referring to the measures affecting the Ecclesiastical Courts, he said it reminded him of that single salp which for a long winter season old gentlemen constant amusement in continually firing at it, but without hitting it. He concluded by referring to some proposed measures of the Government.

LOCATION AT BRIGHTON.—There was an uproarious meeting at Brighton on Tuesday week. It was called to support a scheme projected by the Rev. N. Woodard for the erection of schools for the "lower middle classes" in connection with St. Nicholas's College, Shoreham. Lord Robert Cecil presided, and the Bishop of Exeter lent his active support. But there was a stout opposition, headed by Mr. Paul Fokett, who smelt Puseyism in the scheme. Mr. Woodard would not generally reply to a question whether any arduous confession was practised at St. Nicholas. A turbulent and large majority lifted up their voices in condemnation of Mr. Woodard's scheme, and the meeting broke up in confusion.

CONSPIRACY TO MURDER THE GOVERNOR OF THE BRISTOL JAIL.—Some conversation was created during the Gloucester assizes, just concluded, by the discovery of a conspiracy, formed among some of the Bristol prisoners, to murder the Governor, Mr. Gardner, on his return with them from Gloucester to Bristol. Their arrival at Gloucester, and while the prisoners were awaiting their trial, one of them sent for Mr. Gardner, and disclosed the plan which had been formed by some of the prisoners (three of whom were ticket-of-leave men) to murder him. He said that Thomas Vowles had a stone about his person, with which he intended to kill the Governor on the return journey to Bristol, in case he (Vowles) could be convicted. Vowles thought that by so doing he would be able to obtain possession of the keys of the handcuffs, and so let the prisoners go. Vowles was then searched, and a large stone was found upon him, which he must have brought to secure while passing through the court yard of the jail at Bristol. Some building was going on. Vowles pleaded "Guilty" on Saturday, to a charge of burglary committed in conjunction with his father. Mr. Baron Bramwell, before passing sentence, examined Mr. Gardner upon the facts above stated, and then sentenced the prisoner to be transported for life.

RECEIPTS AT LIVERPOOL.—It has transpired that a few days ago Mr. James Shaw, agent in Liverpool to the District Provident Society, has abandoned with £2,600 belonging to the society. The default is said to have been made easy of accomplishment owing to a loose system of auditing the accounts, and the local committee, seeing this, have made good the amount amongst themselves. William Ellis, a confidential clerk in the employment of Messrs. Abram Garside and Co., wool-brokers, Liverpool, has also abandoned, being defalcations to the amount of £1,000. He is believed to be accompanied by Richard Williams, jun., keeper of Cable Street, in the same town, who is stated to have £2,000 or £3,000 in his possession. Ellis was believed to be steady, sober, and a good churchman.

A SOLDIER'S THANK-OFFERING.—A handsome new porch has been erected by the church of Eynesbury, Hants, with a brass plate, bearing the following inscription:—"As thank offering to Almighty God, for preservation in the following battles, fought in five different kingdoms, in which he was present and very engaged, this porch was erected by Lieutenant-Colonel Humbley, Rifle Brigade, in September, 1856." Here follow the names of twenty-two of the principal battles in which the Gallant Colonel participated, and for which he has received thirteen medals. It appears that there is only one officer in the British Army now living who has received more clasps than Colonel Humbley, viz., General Sir James Schoedde, K.C.B.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW.—This exhibition, which closed on Friday week, has been the most successful one since the establishment of the show, eight years ago. At least 43,000 persons visited the show. On Friday afternoon, only two beasts remained unsold, and these were only because offers had been made for them before they were brought to the show. Many animals realised from £50 to £65 and £70. Most of the first prize cattle were sent on Saturday to the London show. Among the sales have not been so general, but still good prices were obtained, the average sold at £6 each. A good many fat pigs were sold, at from 11s. to 12s. a score. In the poultry department the sales were good, higher prices being obtained than during the last two years. The Dorking and Spanish silver cups were sold for thirty guineas each; fifteen guineas were given for a commended Dorking cock; ten and fifteen guineas were given in numerous instances for pens; and of turkeys fetched £10; and a pen of ducks, £10.

A MAYOR FOR MARGATE.—Her Majesty has granted a charter of incorporation for Margate. This circumstance was announced to the committee by telegraph on Saturday, and subsequently to the inhabitants by the ringing of the bells. The town will be divided into four wards. The elections, it is believed, will take place about the 1st of January.

COLLISION AT DENTON.—At Denton, between Stockport and Staleybridge, a train drawing a "dead" engine ran into a passenger-train which was just starting, smashing it, seriously wounding many passengers, and killing one, the girl of thirteen years of age. The distance signal was not turned to "stop," the guard discovered this, and knowing that the engines were following, he gave warning when they came in sight, so that many persons were enabled to escape from the train. This "accident" was on the North-Western, which now furnishes a too regular supply. The jury who inquired into the death of the little girl, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but were of opinion that the company's staff at the Denton Station was insufficient for the service, and that, in consequence, the distance-signal was not properly attended to on the occasion of the accident.

REPEAL OF THE INCOME TAX.—A meeting, convened by the Mayor, on the requisition of 500 taxpayers, was held in the Town Hall, Brighton, on Monday evening, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament to repeal or amend the income-tax, and to adopt such measures thereon as might be deemed expedient. The Mayor took the chair, supported by Sir George Peckell, M.P. Resolutions were passed, denouncing the present impost of 16d. in the pound as enormous and oppressive; and that the tax should either be more equitably adjusted or totally repealed. A third resolution was condemnatory of the practice of allowing a poundage to the collectors, on account of its tendency to render them partial. The last resolution was to the effect that a petition, embodying the foregoing resolutions, be presented for signature, and requesting the members for the borough to support the same in Parliament.

GOOD TIMES.—Though there has been a considerable increase in the population of South Shields, the expenditure for the poor, in maintenance and out-door relief, was £1,865 6s. 7d., during the first half year of 1856, as compared with an expenditure of £3,006 14s. 9d. in the same period of 1855, showing a decrease of £1,140 8s. 2d.

RUSSIAN VIEW OF THE TREATY OF PARIS.

A DOCUMENT was addressed by the Russian Government at the latter end of October to all the Powers that signed the Treaty of Paris. It was accompanied by a circular, requesting the reconvening of the Paris Conference. This memorandum is an exposé of the steps taken by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg with a view to the fulfilment of the Articles 20 and 21 of the Treaty of the 30th of March.

As regards the Isle of Serpents, the Russian Government says:—"It will suffice to read carefully the text of the stipulations to be convinced they refer to a demarcation on the main land, and do not apply to the possession of an island situate in the open sea. In fact, no express stipulation of the treaty has either annexed to Moldavia or adjudged to Turkey that island, which was incontestably in the possession of Russia before the rupture."

As regards the Bessarabian frontier question, the memorandum says:—"Whenever the delegates for the settlement of the frontier line came upon a local difficulty, which they could not settle on their own responsibility, an immediate decision, sent by order of the Czar, raised their doubts and rendered their work easy in a perfect spirit of conciliation. In support of this truth it will suffice to mention two facts."

According to Art. 20 of the new frontier, starting at one kilometre from the lake of Bourna-Sova, was to rejoin perpendicularly the Akermann road. That line cut in two Lake Hidi-Idrah, and left Lake Busium entirely to Russia. The inspection of the localities showed the defect of such delimitation. The Imperial Cabinet allowed its delegates to remedy this inconvenience, so as to include the two lakes in the Moldavian territory.

Again, the 20th Art. made the frontier end at Katsmori, on the Pruth. The text of the treaty did not express whether that place was to belong to Russia or to be given to Moldavia. The Imperial Cabinet obviated that difficulty by allowing Katsmori to be joined to the Principality.

As regards the course of the Upper Yalpuok and the town of Bolgrad, the memorandum says:—

"As regards the first point, the text of the treaty indicated the river Yalpuok as the frontier line. In its course, at a place called Andreiska, the river splits into two runs, one bearing the name of Yalpuok, the other that of Yalpuchel. The letter of the treaty implies the former; the other arm would give a more enlarged frontier to Moldavia. The delegates have reserved this question for the solution of the Congress."

"As regards the second point in dispute, that of the town of Bolgrad, a consideration of good faith seems to determine this question. It is this. When the Congress came to discuss a decree in principal the new frontier line, the Russian frankly declared the importance of not taking away the town of Bolgrad from the Bulgarian colonies of which it is the capital. This administrative consideration, so frankly expressed, received the unanimous votes of all the representatives, given in a spirit of concord and conciliation. Consequently it was resolved by a unanimous accord, that the frontier line should pass south of Bolgrad, as is clearly and precisely stated in the text of Art. 20. This resolution was not taken on the inspection of maps produced at the Conference by the Plenipotentiaries of Russia. Printed in Russian, they might not have appeared sufficiently intelligible to all the representatives at the Congress. They, therefore, formed their conclusions from the examination of a map placed at their disposal by the care of the French Government."

This fact is worthy of mention. The first motive of dissent arose when the delegates had visited the localities: they then found that the town of Bolgrad, instead of being situate at some distance from Lake Yalpuok, as was indicated upon all the maps, touched the northern extremity of the lake. The position thus ascertained on the spot gave rise to a difference of opinion between the respective delegates as regards the crossing of the frontier line entrusted to their care. The Russian delegates proposed to take as demarcation limit the valley line, leaving the left shore of the lake to Russia, the right shore to Moldavia. This combination was deemed inadmissible by the other Commissioners. In their opinion, access to the lake open on the left bank to Russia might engender the fear of the Imperial Government forming a flotilla upon the lake, the presence of which might some day be an impediment to the free navigation of the Danube."

The memorandum then suggests that all anxiety on that point might have been removed beforehand by the express condition that a single boat should be allowed for the use of the Russian authorities, to be kept at a fixed station, for the use of the custom and sanitary officers. Nor did the proposition of the French Commission, to make a high road (*chaussee*), along the shore of the lake, and thus to separate the town of Bolgrad from the shores of Lake Yalpuok, meet the objections of the Austrian, English, and Turkish delegates.

"In their opinion" (the memorandum proceeds), "the frontier line instead of passing south of Bolgrad, the capital, as understood by the Congress, and as stated in Art. 20 of the Treaty, ought to be drawn south of the place named Tabak. Now the place called Tabak is not the central point of the administration of the Bulgarian Colonies. For many years the town of Bolgrad has been the capital. Church, school, government, population, are all concentrated in Bolgrad. Tabak, as all the delegates were able to ascertain, does not, therefore, in any manner respond to the intention, avowed openly, in which the Russian Plenipotentiaries asked, and which the other Plenipotentiaries united at the Congress granted, that Bolgrad should remain in the possession of Russia. This is a simple question of good faith. If the line should be drawn south of Tabak it would be drawn contrary to the spirit and to the letter of the text. Bolgrad would be separated from the colonies, while it was agreed that that town should remain annexed to them. In a word, the treaty of the 30th of March would not be carried out conformably to the idea which presided over that transaction."

The Congress is accordingly called to settle these questions: they are to be decided by a plurality of votes.

RUSSIAN MONUMENT AT SEBASTOPOL.—The monument to the Russians slain at Sebastopol is to consist of a vast funeral chapel, which will be constructed at the end of the cemetery. The names of the officers killed, and those of the corps and regiments who took part in the struggle, will be inscribed on tablets of black marble. The chapel will be dedicated in St. George, and served by priests from the monastery of that name. The bodies of the Russian officers are to be exhumed and buried in the cemetery of St. Nicholas.

EARTHQUAKE IN CHINA.—Letters from China detail the destruction of the town of Yoo-Tehing, on the north-western frontier of the Celestial Empire, by an earthquake, on the 17th of August. Several days previously some shocks of earthquake were felt throughout the southern districts of the province of Pe-Tehi-Li, and the superstitious terrors of the people were dreadfully excited. The 16th of August passed quietly, but at three o'clock in the afternoon of the next day came a tremendous shock, which continued for two minutes, being at first felt to move horizontally in the direction of from east to west, and presently changing to the direction of from north to south. The town of Yoo-Tehing, where it was most violently felt, and several of the neighbouring villages, were reduced to ruins, and some hundreds of people lost their lives. This town was a favourite summer residence of the Chinese grandees, and the Prince Taouk Long, the present Emperor of China's youngest son, is believed to have perished, together with the mandarin who governed the province, and many officers of state, in a sumptuous palace of marble and porcelain, erected about four years ago in the most aristocratic suburb of the town. This unfortunate Prince is said to have been the favourite of his royal sire—to have been distinguished by many virtues and accomplishments—and so precocious in learning, that, in 1854, he was appointed by the Emperor "the supreme chief of the class of literati," which erudite profession comprises, in China, about half a million of persons, forming the academical and official aristocracy of the empire, and privileged with a monopoly of all employments in the civil service. This Prince had a brother younger than himself, who was killed in 1852 by a panther, which he had rashly attacked whilst hunting in company with his tutor. The poor boy was only eleven years old, and his tutor, like our old friend Dominie Sampson, when "little Harry" got into mischief, was very severely called to account for his culpable negligence in letting his young pupil run into so great a danger, and was condemned to pine, for the remainder of his life, in an iron cage, where he still continues, notwithstanding the intercessions of his influential family. These particulars may perhaps be less true than romantic; but there is no doubt of the catastrophe which has befallen the unhappy town of Yoo-Tehing.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

THE iron screw steamer James Hartley, belonging to the West Hartpool Steam Navigation Company, was prosecuting her voyage from Cork to Liverpool, and when abreast of Sunderland, at a distance of three or four miles, the night being pitch dark, she encountered a strange vessel bearing down upon them under easy sail, and to appalling proximity to the steamer. James Hartley, at a distance of five or six miles, and the captain of the James Hartley ordered the engines to be reversed. Unhappily, the order was given too late, for, before the reversal of the engines had time to exert any perceptible influence on the course of the steamer, the two vessels came into violent collision, and when, a few minutes afterwards, the James Hartley was blowing up and searching made for the brig, and a vessel of her was discovered. She had gone on in a badly carrying with her her unfortunate master and five of the crew. It was at first thought that the whole of her crew had been lost; but, fortunately, two of them (including the master) had survived in floating the deck of the James Hartley, and were thus almost miraculously preserved. From these men it was ascertained that the ill-fated vessel was the brig Messenger, of Shields, bound to that port from London, in ballast.

The captain of the British barque Perthshire, which arrived at Savannah from the Clyde on the 10th ult., reports that on the 25th of October, on the south-east coast of Ireland, Tuskar Light bearing north-east, distant about forty miles, he passed the wreck of a ship, and took off a Spanish sailor, who stated that his vessel was bound from Liverpool to New York, and that one was run into by a large ship, supposed to be a New York packet. All on board, some sixteen souls, are believed to have perished.

The wreck of the ship Clarendon has been reported at Lloyd's. The following details are given in a letter dated Whitehaven, Dec. 6th:—"The ship Clarendon, Captain Noyce, from Miramichi for Liverpool, with a cargo of timber, &c., went on shore close to Rednes Point, about a mile N.E. of this port, this afternoon, about 4.30. It was blowing strong from the south-west when the ship went on shore, and the sea being very heavy, sixteen of the crew were taken on shore in the life-boat. The master refused to leave the ship, and four of the crew were left on board with him; but at about eleven o'clock at night, the tide had so far receded as to enable people to approach her from the shore, and after a great deal of persuasion, the captain was induced to land, and the whole of the hands were got out in safety, with the exception of some slight bruises. The vessel is a complete wreck, the fore and aft being only held together by a very slight connection."

The barque Louisa Monro, Captain Richardson, has been wrecked on the Menlow Sands, near Milford. The captain and eight of the crew were drowned, and four of the latter saved. The Louisa Monro was of 300 tons, and belonged to a Liverpool owner.

At Watchet, in Somersetshire, several pieces of wreck have been washed ashore, plainly proving that a vessel had been wrecked in the Channel. Some papers belonging to a schooner of 150 tons register, named the Invoice, of Plymouth, and freighted with iron, have also come ashore. The Invoice was a fine schooner, with a crew of nine hands, and sailed from Cardiff on the 21st of Nov., with 130 tons of bar iron, bound for Genoa. It is feared that all on board were lost.

Two French schooners went ashore on the Isle of Wight, on Sunday night. They were both, it is understood, on their way from Lashon to some port in France, and had been driven out of their latitude by the violent south-west gales, having in the first instance been impeded by the thick fogs which prevailed for several days, and which had prevented the crew from taking observations. One of the vessels was laden with oranges, and the other with linseed. The former went aground at Atherfield, and the latter in Chale Bay. The crews were saved, excepting one man and a boy.

The English steamer William Beckett, foundered on the 12th ult., about 250 miles W. by S. of the Scaw. Captain Holdridge, the master, and crew of the vessel, arrived at Goole on Saturday, having been forwarded to England by the Consul at Hamburg. Captain Holdridge states that in getting out the ship's boats they experienced much difficulty in preventing them being dashed to atoms, the sea at the time was running so violently. It was at length safely accomplished by pouring a quantity of oil overboard into the sea, which seemed to deaden the surf round the ship. The boats were lowered, and got clear without touching the ship, which went down in less than five minutes afterwards. The crew also took a can of oil with them in each boat, the can containing about three gallons, and used the same with similar results, while running down the ship in English, and which took them on board.

The new American liner Adriatic, Captain Cambes, which sailed from Liverpool on the 30th ult. for New York, with a large number of passengers and a full cargo, drove on shore in Bangor Bay on Monday night, and is likely to prove a total wreck. Three persons were drowned. The Adriatic was built in New York during the present year, and was on her first voyage to that port. She was of 1,400 tons register, and with the cargo on board was worth about £100,000.

On Sunday, a ship, supposed to be the J. L. Warner, which cleared from New Orleans for Liverpool on the 25th of October, was at anchor in distress off Tacumshin Lough, near Wexford. She had cut away her masts, and a cask was thrown overboard, but it was broken to pieces in the surf. The name of the vessel was painted on one end of the cask, which was afterwards picked up. It has been very stormy in the Channel, and numerous casualties may be expected to be reported.

Twenty fishing boats left the village of Findochty (Banffshire). Soon afterwards a gale sprung up, and anxious relatives went down to look out for the boats, all of which, except three, soon made the shore. Presently the remaining three boats were seen labouring in the heavy sea. Every eye was fixed on the two nearer boats, which were both distinctly recognised, one being new and having sails entirely white, the other having also white sails, though slightly stained. When attention was directed towards them the gales saw with terror the white canvas of the new boat dip in the sea, and disappear beneath the waves. For a few seconds an agony of suspense was endured, there being a hoping even against hope that the white sail would again become visible. The fancy was not realised. The boat and her crew were gone.

The steamship "Marion" returned to New York on the 25th ult., after a nine days' unsuccessful cruise in search of the French steamer "Le Lyonnais" and her boats and raft. The only reasonable hope, therefore, that they have been picked up by some outward-bound vessel and conveyed to Europe. It has been ascertained that the vessel which came in contact with "Le Lyonnais" was the barque "Adriatic," bound from Belfast, Maine, for Savannah. She arrived at Gloucester, Mass., on the 4th of November, with loss of bowsprit, forward bulwarks, &c.

EXPEDITION IN SEARCH OF MISSING VESSELS.—On the application of certain shipowners of Dundee, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have ordered the Bulldog and Salamander steamers to proceed immediately towards Archangel, in search of five merchant ships belonging to the port of Dundee, which were from Archangel, homeward bound, and have not been missing for two months past. The Bulldog and Salamander, having received on board preserved meats, warm clothing, boots, &c., considered necessary for the relief of the lost men should they happily be taken in with, left Sherness on Monday. Both ships will proceed north until they make the Shetland Islands; from thence they will steer north-west, and proceed as far north as latitude 64, provided they are not prevented by floating or fixed ice. Their orders are to cruise for fourteen days, and then to proceed to Cronarty, and report the result of their search.

A FRENCH SQUADRON IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.—The "Constitutionnel" states that several French vessels of war are intended to cruise in the Indian Ocean, in company with the frigate Nemesis, which will be the flagship of Rear-Admiral Rigault de Genouilly. Two steam corvettes, the Phléocée and the Primauguet, with four gun-boats, will compose this little squadron, to be joined to the naval force which is already in the same region, under the command of Rear-Admiral Guérin.

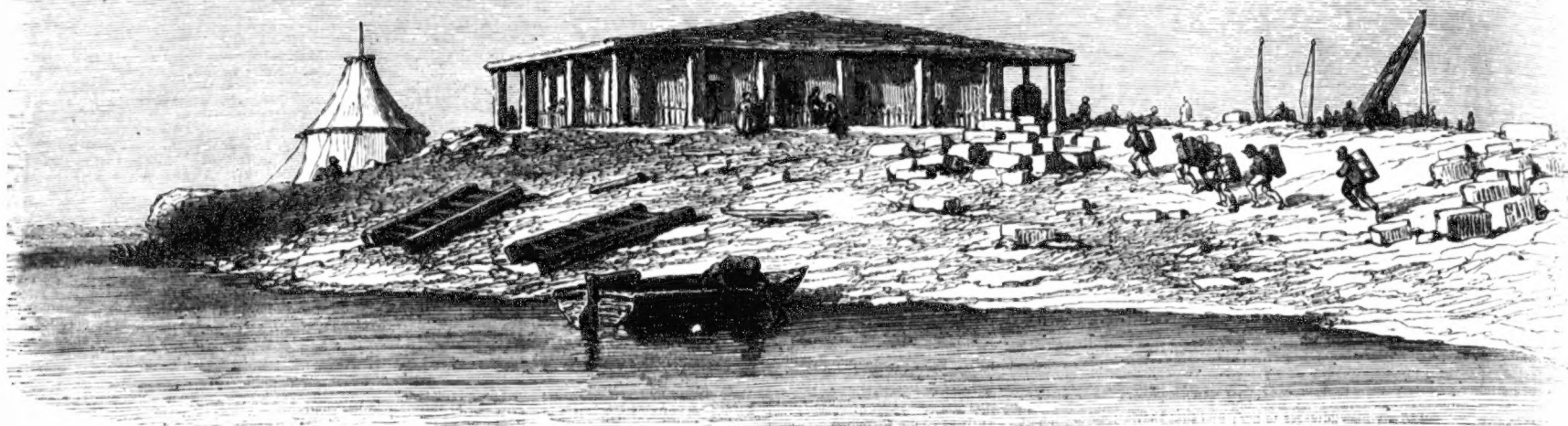
AN AMBASSADOR ROBBED OF DESPATCHES.—According to the "Post Ampt Gazette," of Frankfurt, "the Duke of Oesuna, the Spanish Envoy to Russia, was robbed while on his journey from Cologne to Hanover, not only of a considerable sum of money, but also of important despatches, particularly of a letter addressed to an influential personage at St. Petersburg, by a German diplomatist accredited to the French Court, and who has played a certain part in late events."

ALDERMAN SALOMONS.—THE LEGION OF HONOUR.—The wish was long since expressed by the Emperor that the late Lord Mayor of London (Mr. Salomons) should have a high rank in the Legion of Honour, in consideration of the part he took in the recent subscription for the victims of the inundations. It is understood that the French Ambassador at London, Count de Persigny, received a communication to that effect, and, as no notification of it has since appeared, we may presume that the strict rule of the English Government, by which British subjects are debarred from receiving a foreign decoration except for military services, will be adhered to, and that the late Lord Mayor will be unable to enjoy the distinction.

THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD.—Mr. Ponsonby declines the vacant commission of this board, which, we understand, has now been given to Sir Alexander Duff Gordon, of the Treasury, who has acted as private secretary to the late and present Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE EGYPTIAN RAILWAY.

IN a recent number of our journal, we gave some engravings of scenes on the route of the proposed ship canal across Egypt, and called attention to the importance of this project to the commerce between Europe and India generally, and to the facilities it would afford to the intercourse of England with her vast Indian empire in particular. We now give some further engravings, illustrative of scenes and incidents connected with the railway in course of construction across Egypt, and which



THE SHIP CANAL ACROSS THE ISTHMUS OF SUEZ: KAFR'EL-EIS STATION ON THE ALEXANDRIA AND CAIRO RAILWAY.

by connecting the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, will afford a rapid means of communication between Europe and the East. The railway, of course, does not interfere with the utility of the ship canal, to which our former illustrations and remarks applied. The railway will be used principally for passenger traffic, the transmission of the mails, and the conveyance of such light goods as would not involve great expense in transshipment; while the canal, as we formerly explained, will enable vessels to complete the voyage between Europe and India, and *vice versa*, without "breaking bulk,"—or, in other words, without the expense and delay of unloading the cargo at the one sea, and reloading it again at the other.

Our illustrations have been selected from the album of Commander Conrad, president of the International Commission. The first represents a station on the line of railway between Alexandria and Cairo. This station is called Kafr'el-Eis, and is situated on the left bank of the Nile.

It is perhaps known to our readers that the Egyptian Railway is completed between Alexandria and Cairo, and that since the 1st of January last passengers and merchandise have been conveyed between the two towns. In another six months, at the latest, the second portion of the line from Cairo to Suez will be completed, and the Mediterranean and Red Sea will be connected by rail—an immense advantage, not only to overland travellers, but also to English commerce.

It was recently stated in the newspapers that the Viceroy of Egypt, Mohammed-Said, had visited the scene of operations in the desert, and had given orders that every effort should be made to expedite the works. The station of Kafr'el-Eis gives a fair idea of all the other stations on the same line. It is extremely simple in architectural appearance, and has more the aspect of a workhouse than a station, and does not bear the least resemblance to those on European lines of railway.

There is no intermediate traffic on the Egyptian Railway. The merchandise is sent direct from Alexandria to Cairo, or *vice versa*. The ter-

mini at each end of the line are large, and have some pretensions to architectural beauty, but still they are very inferior to ours as regards the accommodation and general appearance. The Egyptian railway porters, as represented in our illustration, are most extraordinary fellows, and it is really astonishing to see them run along under their heavy burdens.

The present road between Suez and Cairo was made during the reign of

overland travellers in rudely-constructed omnibuses. The mail bags and passengers' baggage being carried by camels.

The second illustration represents station No. 8 on the present route. It is situated about half-way in the desert, and is one of the principal halting-places for the traveller, who is often agreeably surprised by the accommodation and comforts it affords. The writer returned from India by this route

some few years since, and was really astounded to find that champagne, bottled ales, stout, and other luxuries, could be procured at the different stations for merely a trifle more than their usual price. There are upwards of fifteen stations between Suez and Cairo, and although of the most simple construction, they cost the transit company an immense sum of money, for the materials had in some instances to be brought from a distance of sixty miles. At each station there is a small detachment of soldiers, for the traveller was not always so secure as he is now. The Bedouins at one time infested the road, and thought it no sin to plunder the native caravans; they never, however, molested the European, fearing the intervention of the Consuls. The Egyptian Government at length succeeded in driving the Bedouins from the track, and the poor Arab may now travel with the same security as the European.

At many of the stations a variety of curiosities may be purchased; among them we may mention a stone which, when broken in two, is found to be beautifully marked with concentric rings of various colours. These stones are susceptible of being highly polished, and very pretty brooches are made from them.

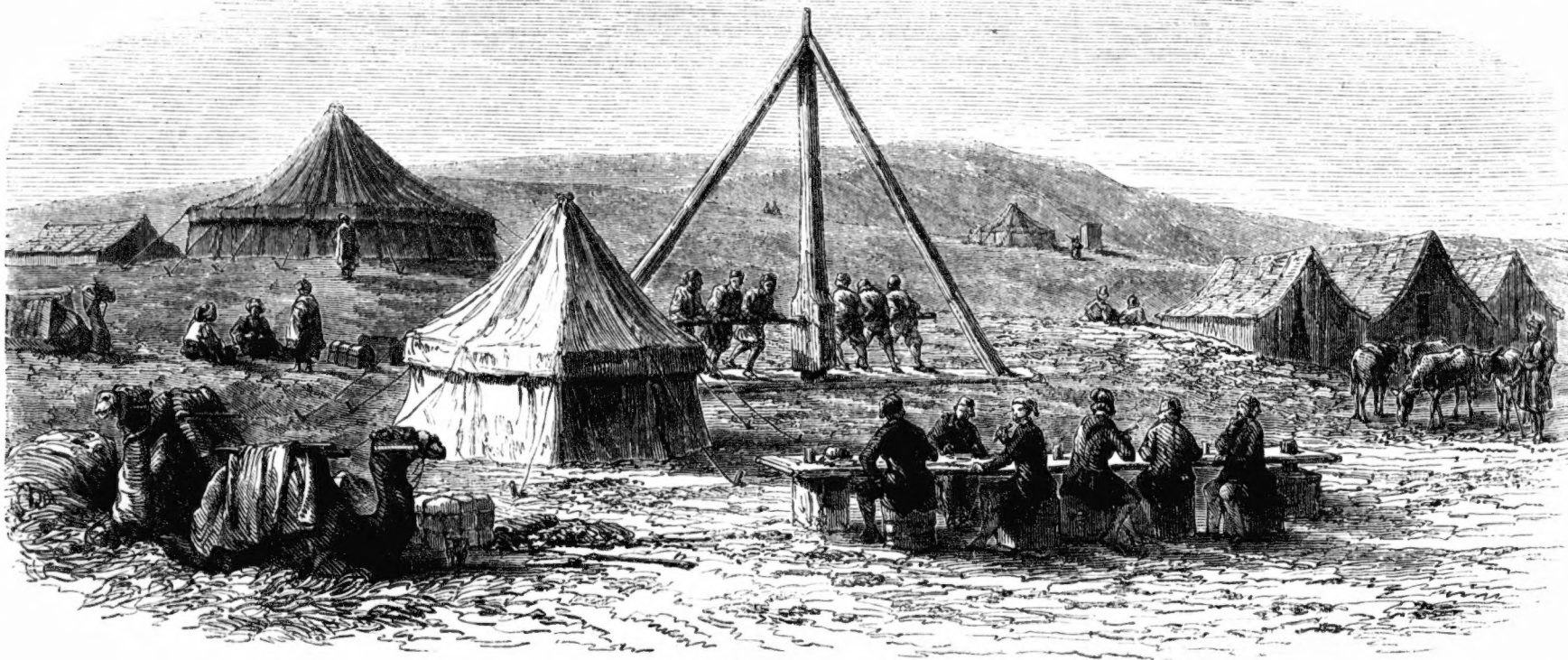
Our third illustration represents the camp of the International Commission at El-Guisr. This is the highest land in the desert, being forty-five feet above the level of the

two seas. A party of Arabs are engaged in boring, preparatory to entering upon some extensive excavations, which have to be made from this spot. Mr. Nettiger, the engineer who was sent out to superintend the making of these excavations, died in July last. He was a man of great talent and untiring zeal, young and full of hope, and it is to be regretted that he so soon fell a victim to the climate.



STATION IN THE DESERT, BETWEEN CAIRO AND SUEZ.

Abbas Pacha, by M. Linant Bey de Bellefonds, expressly for the conveyance of passengers from India, who disembark at Suez from the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers, travel through Egypt, and embark at Alexandria for England. This route will become useless as soon as the railway is completed from Cairo to Suez; the distance between Cairo and Suez is about ninety miles, and is traversed in a few hours by



ENGINEERS' CAMP AT EL-GUISR.



WHAT IS CALLED VAGABONDAGE—A PARISIAN STREET SCENE.—(FROM A PAINTING BY ALFRED STEVENS.)

WHAT IS CALLED VAGABONDAGE.

IN England, a vagabond is a person who cannot give you a satisfactory account of how he earns his living, where he resides, or what his objects in life are. A young man who is seen looking down an area, evidently fascinated by the jingle-pattern spoons on the kitchen dresser, is a vagabond. The little girl with naked feet who beg of you in the streets, and then take the pence to the dirty woman who waits at the corner, they are vagabonds. The poor wretch who sleeps with the birds in the trees of the parks, and whose unfurnished apartment is the lough of an oak tree, he is a vagabond. The gentleman who, as secretary to a public company, lives at the rate of £5,000 a year on £150 a salary, is, as soon as he is found out, a vagabond. If the father of a family takes a trip on the sly to America, and never comes home again, but allows all his children and their dam to be carried off to the workhouse at one fell swoop, he too is a vagabond. There are plenty of other kinds of vagabonds. In fact, the variety is as plentiful as that of ferns and mosses. The wicked cabman, who, in the darkness of night, gives you change for a sovereign all in bad shillings, is a vagabond. In England, we punish vagabondage under the Vagrant Act, although the criminal may not happen to be a vagrant.

In France, the law has based its opinion of vagabonds upon nearly the same views as those which have been taken by the British legislature. It is, however, more severe with begging. Before anybody is allowed to ask for alms in the streets, a permission from the police must be obtained, which is only granted in cases of bodily infirmity which takes away the power to labour for an existence. Of course, there are many starting in such a large city as Paris besides the cripple and the maimed. If a strong-shouldered man or woman attempt to creep along at your side and whisper out some story of misery, then the moment a police officer catches sight of the petitioner, he is empowered to make an arrest and march the poor wretch off to the nearest "corps de garde." This is a very convenient arrangement for the gentlemen who stroll about the Boulevards smoking their cigars, as it saves them from the annoyance of anybody's troubles interfering with their pleasures. Ladies looking into shop-windows, too, are never startled by hearing a croaking voice next to their bonnet, and finding that they must either pay a halfpenny and enjoy their peep through the window, or hurry away as fast as they can to save their money.

Mr. Alfred Stevens, the celebrated Belgian painter, exhibited last year, in the Universal Exhibition at Paris, a picture—of which we give an engraving—bearing this strange title, "What is called Vagabondage."

Everyone talked about this beautiful painting. The lady in the red velvet dress erected quite a furor, from the exquisite manner in which the warm hue of the dress had been made to contrast with the cold, wintry tones of the background, and the crisp, frozen look of the snow.

There is no doubt, too, that the subject greatly served to make the reputation of the painting. It is just one of those sympathetic notions, founded more upon what might take place than upon what really happens.

The modest-looking mother, with her two little half-frozen children, marched off to prison by three well-armed soldiers, seems an incident so inconsistent, that everybody grows indignant at the notion of such an event occurring. The poor woman is evidently not a professional beggar. There is a half-starved look in her face, and she walks along with the resignation of a martyr. It is a beautiful picture; the subject is poetic in the extreme, and we hope, very unreal.

The French Government was so opposed to the title which Mr. Stevens had given to his painting, that when an engraving of it was about to appear in one of the Paris illustrated papers, the censor of the press insisted that the words "What is called vagabondage," should be altered to merely "Vagabondage."

We need not say that the wish of the Government official was instantly complied with; indeed, if the worthy gentleman had expressed a wish that the title of the "The Murderess" should be substituted, no doubt the publishers would have seen a deal of good sense in the suggestion, and have instantly complied with it.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER AND SIR ROBERT PEELE.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER has published several letters. The first is from himself to Lord Palmerston, in reply to a note from the Premier, refusing an investigation into the Admiral's conduct. In this letter Sir Charles particularly calls attention to the speeches of Sir Robert Peel, "attacking an old officer, double his age, who had served his country honourably for upwards of fifty years, had several times received the thanks of Parliament, and had even been highly lauded in Parliament by the Hon. Baronet's own father," and though it appears that Lord Palmerston considers the Admiral's conduct "to have been judicious and proper, and to have been founded on a correct sense of his public duty in the very responsible situation in which he was placed as Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic fleet," still Sir Charles considers this concession too little; since Sir Robert Peel, a Lord of the Admiralty, has stated that, "had he (Sir Charles) done his duty, Cronstadt would have been crumpled to dust," and since Sir Robert has further stated that in this opinion he is supported by the "highest authority." Sir Charles therefore begs that the Premier will reconsider his decision, and grant the investigation he requests. Furthermore, he intimates that, as Sir Robert Peel's "highest authority" cannot be the Premier (since he has expressed a contrary opinion), and as it cannot be the Queen, the country has a right to know who the authority is.

The next important letter is from Sir Charles to the Grand Duke Constantine, in which he encloses a copy of Sir R. Peel's accusing speech, and the Admiral's letter in reply; adding, "I shall make no apology to your Imperial Highness for writing to you. Your Highness is a frank open-hearted sailor. I therefore request you will be pleased to inform me whether I have correctly stated what passed between your Highness and myself, when you honoured me with an interview, and whether, as stated by Sir R. Peel, if I had attacked Cronstadt, I would have crumpled it into dust, —I have the honour, &c. &c." Then follows the Grand Duke's reply. He says:—"My dear Admiral,—In answer to your letter of the 29th of October, I willingly affirm that you have quite exactly reported the conversation I had with you concerning Cronstadt. With respect to Sir R. Peel's statement, I consider it necessary to say that I spoke with him but once, viz., at his official presentation at Moscow; and that not a word concerning Cronstadt—not even the name itself—was mentioned by either of us.—Yours affectionately, CONSTANTINE." And so at present stands this war of words. Sir R. Peel's statement, which the Grand Duke refers to, was, that from the lowest midshipman in the Russian navy to the Grand Duke, there was only one opinion of Sir Charles's want of enterprise.

ARMY REFORM.—The new regulations for staff appointments, issued by the Duke of Cambridge, are another promise of gradual reform in the army. Officers in active service will be recommended by their commanders for selection; they will have to go through a course of instruction at the public expense; and they will then, if they pass their examinations creditably, be eligible for appointments on the staff. The staff will thus gradually become recruited by men trained in the school and in active service—a nucleus for the most efficient army in time of war. This is not exactly an abolition of the purchase system, but it is so far a wholesome counteractive of it.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—The recent visit of Lord Palmerston to Woburn, the seat of the Duke of Bedford, has excited a considerable amount of gossip. Whether Lord John is to be brought into the Palmerston ministry—without a seat in the House of Peers—is the question. The London correspondents of the provincial journals have even, in the death of news, been speculating on what Lord John's title will be when he goes up to the House of Lords. One thinks it will be Baron Russell;—another is of opinion that Baron Woburn would be more appropriate;—while a third confidently states that he will take his title from the metropolitan city of which he has the honour to be the representative in the House of Commons.

THE SHREWSBURY ESTATES.—Lord Edmund Howard's solicitors have addressed a letter to the tenants on the Shrewsbury estates, in which they complain that Earl Talbot's agents are trying to persuade the tenants that his Lordship is now entitled to those estates, although the first legal step towards establishing his claim has not been taken. It is only as "Earl of Shrewsbury," says the circular, "that any one can claim the estates as against the trustees of Lord Edmund Howard; and until some one of the claimants has established a title to the earldom, he cannot even question the right of the trustees to retain possession of the estates; and if even any claimant should hereafter establish a claim to the earldom, Lord Edmund and trustees will be quite prepared to maintain in the courts of law, that the late Earl had full right, like every other landowner, to dispose of his own family estates, notwithstanding the restrictions imposed by the old Act of Parliament on which Lord Talbot relies, but which, like all other laws imposing penalties on religious opinions, has long since been repealed." The circular concludes by calling on the tenants to continue to pay their rent to their "old landlords," and intimates that the Duke of Norfolk will give a written indemnity for the same to each tenant, at the ensuing autumn.

SMYRNA is now mentioned as the destination of the Russian squadron at present at Cherbourg.

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

NOTWITHSTANDING the very recent occurrence of the Birmingham cattle show, which might be supposed to forestall a great deal of the public interest in fat oxen and sheep of fine proportions, the exhibition of this year at the Baker Street Bazaar is by no means behind its predecessors either in numbers or quality. It may be said that not to go forward is generally considered as to a certain extent going back; but it must be recollected that there are limits to everything, and that when the skillful cattle feeders and breeders have filled the skins of their favourites to the utmost degree of tension and roundness, they must come to a level which by no ingenuity can they possibly surpass.

Of the general features of the show, the most striking is the prominence which the light Devon breeds of cattle are gradually attaining, as compared with the more massive short-horn and Hereford breeds. Formerly one went into the Bazaar with the certainty of finding the gold medal awarded to some white placid giant, with beef enough on his vast expense of rib to furnish supplies for a whole regiment. If it was not Durham, it was sure to be Hereford, and the other varieties had nothing left for it but to grumble over the inferior prizes. This year, however, matters have taken an entirely different turn; the short-horns and Herefords are displaced; and Mr. Stratton's beautiful animal, which obtained the gold medal at Birmingham, is obliged to yield up his much prized decoration to a smart little Devon, whose whole bulk would hardly equal one of his hind quarters. It appears that of late years there has been a sort of seismism growing up amongst the men who breed fat oxen, and that they are now divided into two sects—one going for the little Devons, symmetry, "gentlemen's beef," and all that sort of thing; while the others insist on the most beef for the greatest number, eightpence a pound, and the interests of the million. These latter still swear by the aldermanic short-horns and Herefords, and the judges at Birmingham coincided with them in opinion. But at Baker Street the fastidiousness of the metropolitan epicure had to be encountered, and consequently the small, symmetrical Devon, light and graceful as a gazelle, was awarded the grand coron.

We are given to understand that there is a larger number of animals in every class in this year's show than there was in the exhibition of the previous year, but nevertheless they appeared to have much more elbow-room, and to be more at their ease, thanks to some recent improvements which have resulted in an admirable system of ventilation. Excepting some few animals which were still suffering from accidents received *in transitu*, the whole of the live stock appeared to be completely at their ease. The gold medal Devon, bred by Mr. Heath, of Norwich, is a small animal, even for the breed, but is remarkably well-shaped, and answers to the poke of the connoisseur in the most satisfactory manner. But the general opinion seems to be that the cattle breeders having some years since run into one extreme of sacrificing everything to mere obesity, are now approaching the other, in which practical usefulness may perhaps disappear in the attempt to cultivate "fancy" cattle, as young ladies patronise Cochins chickens, or dabble in vivaria. His rival, the great ox, who had obtained the first place at Birmingham, stood depending in close juxtaposition, and certainly—except to the very deeply learned—appeared to be by far the finer animal. The owner of the cattle, however, Mr. Stratton, has got a gold medal for his beautiful heifer, an honour which is not often attained at the show, and which must compensate him for his disappointment. As a general rule, the Devons of this year are considered first-rate, but then they are just now the fashion, the short-horns excellent, and the Herefords about an average. Amongst the extra stock, the most remarkable specimen is a fierce Highland steer, exhibited by his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, who keeps every one at a respectful distance, and even if you look too long at him gives unmistakable indications of a wish on his part to have you to deal with on his native heather. We have some suspicion that, in this instance, the judges awarded the prize out of motives of respect, as anything like examination by way of poking, pinching, or squeezing in the approved manner, would be wholly out of the question. Still he is a noble animal, and, if not the fattest, is the most picturesque animal in the exhibition.

The sheep department is distinguished by two features differing from last year's show. The Duke of Richmond has this time beaten Mr. Rigden, and every one else, and the Leicesters are considered to take the palm from the Southdowns. Mr. Wainley, of Bridlington, Yorkshire, is the greatest prizeholder in this department, and his pen is certainly every way worthy of commendation. In the Southdowns, the Duke of Richmond has nearly the whole prize list to himself, there being only room left at the bottom for one small prize to his old opponent, Mr. Rigden. The pigs are remarkably fine, but not over numerous, the excitement of the Birmingham show having rendered many of these obese candidates for public approbation unfit for a debut on metropolitan boards. The successful pen belongs to Mr. John Cote, of Hammon, Blandford, and the next best to Mr. Williams, of Bridgewater; but, except to the judges, there would be great difficulty in awarding the palm. Our old friends, the Coleshills, are to be found in the catalogue, but not in the prize-list, the noble owner not having on this occasion obtained his usual success. On the whole, it may be said that the show is a good average show, but without any very striking features.

It strikes us as a bad arrangement to have the Birmingham and London shows following so closely on each other. For in the first place, the public attention is divided and weakened; and in the second, the discrepancies in the judges' awards will be apt to damp our faith in the oracles. When people see animals to which are awarded gold medals in Birmingham, passed sometimes unnoticed in London, and *vice versa*, they will begin to doubt as to the standard by which they are to regulate their admiration.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. A. Baillie Cochrane has issued an address to the constituency of the county of Lanark, and as the honourable gentleman will have the support of the Conservative party, and we have reason to believe, of the house of Hamilton, there can be little doubt of his return.—Admiral J. W. D. Dundas having declined to come forward as a candidate for Greenwich, the representation of which is vacant by the retirement of Mr. Peter Rolt, Mr. W. Jones, a solicitor, many years resident in Greenwich, has offered himself. His opinions seem to be rather Liberal.—Mr. Richard Andrews, the Mayor of Southampton, and candidate for the representation of the borough, now lies dangerously ill at his residence at Winchester.

SIR MORTON PETO'S SEWAGE SCHEME.—Sir Morton Peto has suggested a grand scheme for the sewage of London. He proposes to concentrate all the drainage in a reservoir at West Ham. From this reservoir he would pump it up to a high level, and would then convey it by a main drain, nearly in a straight line, to the German Ocean.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—A new Roman Catholic Church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Michael, and erected close to the Strand station of the Backwall Railway, was opened for public worship on Sunday, Cardinal Wiseman officiating on the occasion. The church was commenced in 1850, and is a handsome structure in the decorative period of Gothic architecture, being capable of containing over 2,000 persons. It has been built almost entirely by the penny subscriptions of the poor, the surrounding congregation consisting all but entirely of burghers, coalheavers, dock labourers, and bricklayers' hodmen.

THE GRAND DUKE OF LUXEMBURG (King of the Netherlands) has proclaimed, of his sole authority, the constitution which the Representative Chamber had just before rejected. The new constitution limits popular rights, and has been promulgated in deference to a motion from the Diet of the Germanic Bund, of which Luxembourg is a member.

THE RUSSIAN "CZAS" says that "While England, with much noise and ostentation, prepares an expedition against Persia, Russia—in silence and noiselessly—is getting ready to come to the succour of the Shah."

THE "LANCET" tells us that the cholera in the Islands of Mauritius and Bourbon, is probably due to the pork imported there from India; for, says the "Lancet," the pigs of India feed "by droves and droves" upon the thousands of corpses which strew the banks of the common grave, the Ganges.

AN INSANE JOURNEYMAN PASTRYCOOK managed to pass the sentries at the Tuileries, and began to ascend the stairs to the Royal apartments. The servants who were on duty, he repelled, "The Emperor," he said, "has only left the Hospital of the Hotel Dieu two hours before."

THE GRAND DUKE OF BADEN has granted an amnesty to all persons condemned for participation in the armed revolt of 1848, except the chiefs of the insurrection, and individuals sentenced to infamous punishments for crimes not political.

THE MURDER AT CHESTER.

On Friday of last week William Jackson was tried, at Chester, for the murder of his two children.

Mr. Swettenham, for the prosecution, stated the case. The prisoner was a married man, and the father of four children. Last May he was with his wife at Manchester, leaving a girl and a boy, about six years of age, in the care of a Mrs. Hancock, a relative of the prisoner's. On the 27th of September Mrs. Hancock sent them to the Chester public-house, where the prisoner was lodging, and there they were left for some time. After that time the prisoner went on, and in a short time returned to his house, when he took away the little girl, coming back in about half an hour. He then took out the boy, and did not return until the afternoon of the 28th. He was seen by different parties going towards an orchard, and then turning without them. The absence of the children gave rise to inquiries, and in answer to inquiries the prisoner gave evasive replies. About three weeks after they had been missed, the mother of the children came to Chester and communicated with the police, who at once instituted inquiries into the case, and on the 22nd of October the prisoner was apprehended. On the following morning, after a search of his house and his removal to the prison, the prisoner was seen carrying the children, and on approaching a shop he was seen to scratch the soil. A shade was obtained, and on removing one of the feet of a child was seen. Mr. Hill, the chief constable, was informed of the fact, and he and his officers went at once to the spot, and on removing one of the feet of a child was seen. The body of a little boy, beneath which was found the body of a girl. Near the boy was also found a bag of toys, which the girl was said to have taken to the Coach and Horses on the 27th of September. The identity of the boy, who carried it with him to the house, and afterwards led him to the house, when his father was carrying him towards the orchard. When the bodies were examined, it was found that the throat of each was stuck in the same manner, and a butcher was found a pig or a sheep, separating the carotid artery and the jugular vein without cutting the throat across. The prisoner had formerly been in the habit of assisting his brother as a butcher; his own trade was that of an upholsterer.

A number of witnesses were produced who deposed to these facts. The jury deliberated for two or three minutes, and returned a verdict of Guilty.

The Learned Judge (Baron Alderson) then put on the black cap, and said:—William Jackson, you have been found guilty on the very clearest evidence that I have ever heard in a court of justice of the murder of your two infant children. Although the last indictment merely charges the death of the boy, it is perfectly clear, from what appeared on the trial, that you killed both one and the other. After killing the girl, you came back and took away the poor boy, and then killed him in like manner. There seems to have been some strange reason why you cut off the thumb with the same weapon with which you afterwards killed her. Then having done that dreadful and horrible deed, you came away with that poor little child and killed him, and then buried the two in one grave. There can be nothing said which can aggravate or mitigate such crime as this. No possible anger on your part could have existed towards children of such an age as these, the oldest scarcely seven and the youngest only six; and I cannot say anything to aggravate your crime. I would not if I could. I can only say that you to employ properly the time, and to tell you that there is not the slightest hope for you in this world; it is the kindest thing I can say to you. The law of the country says—and I as its minister mention and repeat it to you—step for this your offence you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and from thence you be taken to a place of execution, and be there hung by the neck until you are dead. That is the sentence; and for myself, and I hope for all here, I pray God may have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner turned pale on hearing his sentence, but directly afterwards picked up his hat, which was on the floor by his side, and walked firmly away. A few moments afterwards he was recalled, and his Lordship finished the sentence by telling him that after execution his body would be buried within the precincts of the jail in which he had been last confined.

DOUBLED MURDER IN YORKSHIRE.

AN old couple, named White, kept a little general shop in the Sclafeld road of Bolton-on-Dearne, near Rotherham. They resided alone. White has been some years been a local preacher among the Wesleyans, and was in the habit of sitting up reading or preparing sermons till eleven or twelve o'clock at night. He usually closed the shutters and his shop at dusk, leaving the door unfastened till about ten. During the evening a lamp burnt upon the counter, and when any customer came in he would go from the kitchen (where they commonly lived) into the shop carrying a candle. He was last seen alive a little before ten o'clock on the night of Thursday week. On Friday morning the shop was not opened as usual, and a woman named Downing, who wanted to purchase some articles, tried the door and found it unfastened. On walking into the shop she found White lying dead in a pool of blood, at an opening of the counter, which communicated with the inner door. A candle-tick stood upon the counter, with the candle burnt down to the socket; the oil-lamp on the counter had also burnt out. Mrs. Downing raised an alarm, when it was found that White had been struck about the head and face by some heavy instrument. He appeared to have been struck down just as he reached the counter and set down the candle. Passing into the house, the body of Mrs. White was found just outside the kitchen door. She lay with her head towards the shop, and a candle and candlestick lay separated, as if they had fallen from her hands. Her death had also been caused by frightful wounds on the head and face.

On examining the shop a cupboard was found to have been broken open, but whether anything had been taken from it was not ascertained. White was in the habit of keeping his money in a canvas bag in his shop-desk, which was not unlocked and the bag empty. There were no marks of violence about it. On examining the pockets of the old man, a sovereign in a leather purse was found in his right-hand trousers pocket, and 16s. 2d. in the left-hand pocket. There were no appearances in the upper rooms of the house of the drawers, &c., having been ransacked, but all were found unlocked.

The inquest was opened on Saturday, but no evidence was adduced beyond the facts given above. It is contemplated to offer a large reward for information which will lead to the conviction of the murderers. A man named Rees was arrested on suspicion, the bosom of his shirt having been seen covered with blood. Rees declared that it was the blood of a rabbit which he had been killing. This was afterwards proved to be the case, and Rees was discharged.

THE MURDERER MARLEY.

We are informed that Marley's "demeanor" is very decorous, that he is completely resigned to his fate, that he never hoped to escape, and acknowledged that since he took life, his own should in justice be taken. But the "demeanor" of persons in Marley's situation is not to be taken in all faith. While, however, Marley does not deny that his was the hand that inflicted the deadly injuries upon the poor man Cope, he persists in asserting that he had no accomplices in the matter, that the whole affair was entirely unpremeditated, and that he had no thought of being concerned in such an affair as a quarter of an hour before the occurrence took place. It will be remembered that the prisoner, before the occurrence took place, was in the shop, and that he was seen by two or three men standing close by, and when he inquired as to what was the matter, they told him it was only a man and wife quarrelling, apparently to induce him to interfere. These men subsequently rendered no assistance to apprehend the prisoner, and from these circumstances it was very naturally inferred that they were concerned with the prisoner in the outrage. Marley, however, denies positively that this was not the case, and states that he alone was concerned in the affair; that accidentally passing by, and seeing that it was a small shop, and that no one in it but the deceased, who was a weak and diminutive man, the thought struck him that it was a good opportunity to commit a robbery, and he accordingly went in with that intention. He declares that he never intended to do any more violence than would be necessary to render Cope helpless. He admits that having made some inquiry of the unfortunate deceased to take of his life, he suddenly struck him with the life-preserver; but the blow did not have the intended effect, and as he was fearful that the alarm raised by Cope would cause his detection, he was induced to give him several other violent blows before his victim was reduced to unconsciousness. The culprit states that during the confusion and excitement of the moment he had no opportunity of making a very close observation, and seeing the basket—which it will be remembered contained a cod fish, and which had been placed in a blue bag—he supposed that it contained some valuable property, and snatched it up and ran off with it; but finding that it impeded his flight, he threw it away shortly before he arrived at Bridge Street. He asserts that there is no foundation for the supposition that it was handed by him to an accomplice. With regard to the possession of the life-preserver, the prisoner says that it is no indication of intention to destroy life, as such weapons are constantly carried by persons who are in the habit of committing offences of this class, that he had it always on him, and that the only use for it was to stun the person intended to be robbed.

It is said that Marley has been well-educated, and belongs to a very respectable family, who were obliged to discard him long ago on account of his vicious habits. The execution will take place on Monday next, the 15th inst.

THE FRAUDS ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

On Friday (the 5th), several cases of forgery were prosecuted against Reppath and Kent. The evidence, which is of a very intricate character, shows to this: that Reppath on several occasions forged transfers—the signatures of the person supposed to make the transfer, and of the person attesting it (fictitious people sometimes, being proved to be in Reppath's writing). In one case, however, the attestation was in the writing of Kent. The transfers, &c., were afterwards "squared" to cover these proceedings. The prisoners were again remanded.

undermine and eventually destabilize themselves generally. Mr.

* "A Sweal, a Sweal!" query "Sweat;" or if "Sweal," may we presume (the Mohawks being aristocrats) that our modern slang term "Swell" may be derived from the sworled "Swealers" of Queen Anne's days?

Bishop to the bishopric of London, and of the cathedral church of St. Paul, London," administered to the Prelate the oaths of allegiance and supremacy and of residence, and to defend the rights of the church.

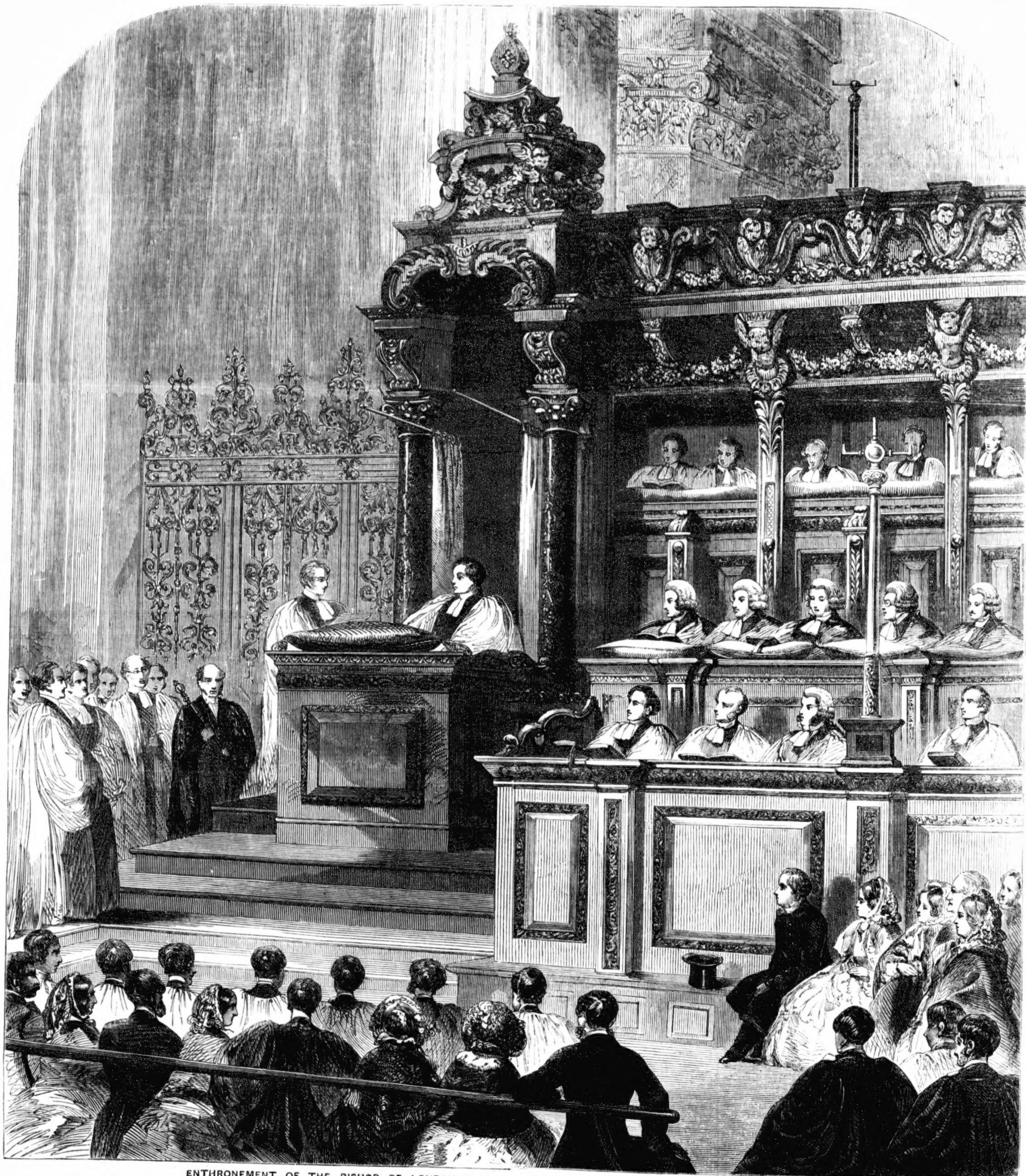
The great bell of St. Paul's then tolled, and the Bishop, clergy, and officers proceeded from the Chapter-house to the great west door of the Cathedral. The procession was met within the western vestibule by the other members of the church, and it then pursued its course through the body of the church and choir. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, attired in their robes of office and attended by the municipal officers, awaited the arrival of the Bishop at the grand entrance, and joined the procession in its progress up the nave. As the procession

moved slowly up the nave an anthem, consisting of verses 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, and 21 of the 135th Psalm, was sung by the choir, Mr. Goss presiding at the organ.

Having been conducted by the Dean and Archdeacon of London to the Communion table, and kneeled at the rails, the Dean began the following suffrages, the choir responding:—Dean: O Lord, save Thy servant, Archibald Campbell, Bishop of this diocese. Answer: And send him health from Thy holy place.—Dean: O Lord, hear my prayer. Answer: And let our cry come unto Thee.—Dean: The Lord be with thee. Answer: And with thy spirit.—Dean: Let us pray. O Lord, Almighty God, we beseech Thee to grant to Thy servant, Archibald Campbell, Bishop of this diocese,

that by preaching and doing those things which be godly he may both instruct the minds of the clergy and people of this church and diocese with true faith and example of good life and good works, and finally receive of the most Merciful Pastor the rewards of eternal life, who liveth with Thee and Thy Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

The Dean then led the Bishop to his throne, and, having caused him to sit down, he inducted and installed him thus:—"I, Henry Hart Milman, Doctor in Divinity, Dean of this Cathedral Church, do, by the authority to me committed, induct, install, and enthrone you, the Right Rev. Father in God, Archibald Campbell, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of London, into the Bishopric and Episcopal dignity of London. The Lord preserve



ENTHRONEMENT OF THE BISHOP OF LONDON IN THE CHOIR OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, DECEMBER 4, 1856.

thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth for evermore, and mayest thou remain in justice and sanctity, and adorn the place to you delegated by God. God is powerful, and may He increase your grace!"

The members of the church and the choir proceeded to their stalls and places, and the Bishop was conducted by the Dean to the episcopal stall in the middle of the choir. Full choral service was then performed; and the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel having been given with great effect, at the conclusion of the service the Bishop of London pronounced the benediction. The procession then re-formed; and having returned to the Chapter-house in the same order as it had come from thence, the Dean conducted the Bishop to the uppermost chair, and then Dean, Canons,

Treasurer, Chancellor, Precentor, and Prebendaries made the following declaration:—"Right Reverend Father in God, I acknowledge all canonical obedience due to you as Bishop of London." It was observed that the Canons appointed by the Crown qualified this declaration by the introduction, after the word "acknowledge," of the phrase, "as far as I lawfully can."

It was remarked that three of the canons—Mr. Dale, Mr. Champneys, and Mr. Melvill—introduced the words, "So far as I lawfully may do so," in their declaration of obedience. This deviation from the written form excited some remarks among the clergy present; but we believe it to have been explained by the fact that these three gentlemen are what is termed

"Queen's Canons;" they therefore deem such a reservation necessary, in becoming their sacred office. With this formal act the enthronisation was brought to a close; and the new Bishop having thanked the clergy for their attendance, and expressed a hope that they would long have mutual intercourse for the benefit of the church, the proceedings of the day terminated.

All graphic narrative or elaboration of incident is prohibited by the very nature of the ceremonial itself, which, unnumbered by useless forms and entirely free from the pomp of pageantry, was in strict conformity with the simple and unadorned, yet sublime and impressive, ritual of the Church of England.

HERAT AND THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

It may seem a fanciful and overstrained analogy, if we compare British India to the British islands, in respect of imperviousness to attack from without. Yet the recently completed subjugation of the entire Peninsula, the military feebleness of the races who touch it on the east, and the mighty barrier which skirts it on the north, place it in a position of inaccessibility almost equal to that of Great Britain. Naval attack may still be feared—and when we lose our naval superiority, we shall lose Hindostan; but, in that event, we shall probably be contending against a foreign foe on our own soil. But the parallel between the island and the peninsula fails in one point. At the north-west angle of the latter rises a high table-land, communicating with the plains below by a number of passes, down which four successive swarms of conquerors have descended to subjugate India. To establish the importance of these passes, it is not necessary to say more than that they exist—that they open to our only formidable enemies the only road to India—that they are not in our own hands—and that almost any amount of hostile preparation might proceed, without our knowledge, at their upper extremity. The destinies of British India are, in fact, as certainly wrapt up in the plateau of Afghanistan as were the destinies of Greece in the mountain-plains of Macedonia. Nearly twenty years ago, we made a desperate attempt to possess ourselves of the country which is to decide our future, and to bring under our direct rule the fierce races which inhabit it. We failed, not from any mistake of object, but from a miscalculation of resources; and we then deliberately determined to exchange the plan of direct subjugation for a system which left Afghanistan and Cabool to the guardianship of their native inhabitants. We made up our minds that the sentinels of India should be men whose love of independence and horror of extrinsic control we had ourselves tested by a too costly experiment. The question to be now considered is, whether the guard in the antechamber of our Empire shall be relieved by doubtful friends or downright enemies?

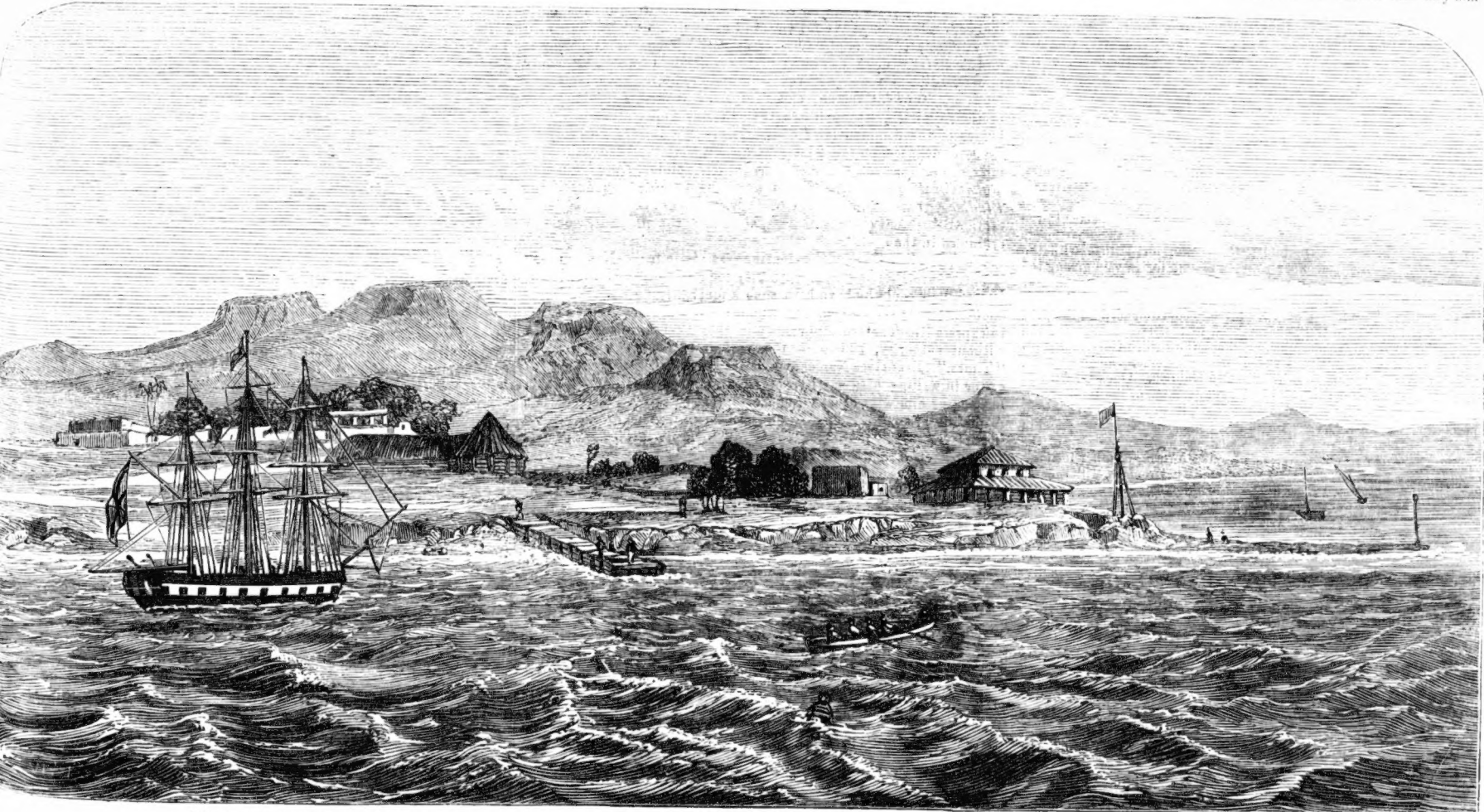
Herat is to Afghanistan what Afghanistan is to India. The table-land of the Afghans has to be approached, on every side but one, through howling deserts or impracticable highlands; but towards Herat, it has, properly speaking, no frontier at all. An easy and uninterrupted system of roads leads from the capital of Persia to Herat, and from Herat to Ghuzné, Cabool city, and Jellalabad. Any potentate who is in possession of Herat, and has troops to spare, has only to take advantage of the incidental opportunities afforded him by the cupidity, the jealousies, and the dissensions of the Afghan chiefs to place himself by a surprise in ex-

actly the same situation in which our own troops found themselves after their first splendid successes. The retribution which followed close afterwards will never overtake the master of Herat, for so admirable a basis of operations will secure him against the frantic efforts of Afghan patriotism. Hence it is of overwhelming importance that Herat should be in Afghan hands or, at all events, that it should never be occupied by a military power strong enough to attempt a war of conquest. In fact, until about two years ago, it was exactly in the position most favourable for British Indian interests. The city, with its territory, had fallen under the power of a separate dynasty, too weak to entertain serious designs against the liberties of Afghanistan, but possessed of sufficient power to defend itself against a foreign invader. It promises, however, to end as all Oriental dynasties end. The last representative of the stock is weak, sensual, and cowardly, and a powerful neighbour instantly determines that the inheritance shall be his. The Shah of Persia, once before driven away from the walls of Herat by English energy, is attempting to reduce it by famine. The "Times" says that a not very accurate map places Herat in his dominions. Just so—and we dare say a map might be found which gave Neuchâtel to Prussia. Persian monarchs have really at different times been lords of Herat; but the Afghans, like the Swiss, are unwilling that a claim, broken by a long prescription of independence, shall be enforced to the jeopardy of their freedom. As to the nature of our own right to second the Afghans, it may be described in a single sentence:—Herat is the key of Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is the door of India.

The Shah is bound by treaty not to attack Herat, which puts an end to the moral question. On the other hand, the considerations of policy which forbid our allowing him to reduce it, are multitudinous. Deceit as the Persian Government may be for the better purposes of administration, it is still a Government which controls a vast territory, and has a large standing army at its command. The Shah, once in possession of Herat, would have many more than sufficient soldiers to reduce the rest of Afghanistan. Even were he not in a position to draw upon other resources than his own kingdom supplies, he would still be within a very few years of reigning in Jellalabad and Ghuzné. But the truth is, for purposes of conquest in Afghanistan, he would have at his disposal every rouble which could be spared from the Russian secret service money. This monarch is little less completely the vassal of Russia than the petty princes of Mingrelia, though his submission is voluntary. He is permanently acted upon by two great animosities—antipathy to the English, and antipathy to the Turks. He hates the English, because he believes that they aim



PERSIAN IRREGULAR TROOPS.



BASSADOR, ON THE ISLAND OF KISHM, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PERSIAN GULF.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUTENANT JACKSON, OF THE INDIAN NAVY.)

at universal empire in the East, and fears that their fortunate star will in time conduct them across Afghanistan into Persia. He hates the Turks from religious bigotry and traditional rivalry. Both hatreds contribute to throw him into the arms of Russia, the common antagonist of Turkey and of England. There is, indeed, but little doubt that he would have declared war against the Turks and their Allies two years ago, had he not thought, or been persuaded, that his best policy was to organise this campaign against Herat. The peace, and the peace only, has prevented the success of a craftily-imagined and most dangerous scheme.

We are under no obligation to defend the wisdom of the expedition devised by the Indian Government and the Board of Control, for raising the siege of Herat. There is certainly one obvious objection to it. It is a close and almost servile copy of an experiment which was successful on a former occasion; and when the Shah, who has been once before driven away from Herat by an English expedition to the Persian Gulf, makes a second attempt on the same city, he surely must be considered as having made up his mind to brave the consequences of another landing on his coast. But that there is an urgent necessity for frightening him, or forcing him from the siege, we think we have proved; and indeed, if England had any proper sense of the mission assigned to them by their Imperial domination over Hindostan, the point would require no proof, and it would be an insult to offer one. Although, however, *Dieu me l'a donné* is a form of words which has little meaning to our countrymen, they pretty well understand the superiority of a small expenditure over a great one. If any considerable part of Afghanistan once falls into the hands of the Persians, the first consequence will be an item of a million or so sterling in the Indian budget for the erection of one or two first-class fortresses in the Punjab, at least of equal magnitude with Varna and Schumla. The handful of Englishmen who reign in India over a hundred millions of subjects to whom they are aliens in blood, language, and religion, will need to protect their exposed frontier at least as efficiently as the powerful Mahometan aristocracy which rules in European Turkey. However much our administration may be preferable to that of the Turks, our situation resembles theirs in many respects; and the parallel may at least serve to remind us that, less than four years ago, we went to war with Russia to protect Turkey against precisely the same danger which now menaces our own Indian Empire from Herat.—*Saturday Review*.

BASSADOR.

We last week gave our readers an account of the expedition which has been fitted out in our Eastern dominions to bring the Shah of Persia to reason; and we now present views of two of the places which the armament is to visit. Letters from the East inform us that the first point for which the fleet was intended to make is Bassador. Under such circumstances, our readers will doubtless feel curious to know what kind of place Bassador is.

Bassador, which was originally presented to the English by the Imam of Muscat, is situated on the Island of Kishm, at the entrance of the Persian Gulf. It is the station for our Indian navy in that quarter, and contains a residence for the commodore and other officers, and an hospital for seamen in the company's service. There are besides a few huts for fishermen, and for those natives who supply the bazaar. The harbour of Bassador is convenient for shipping, capable of anchoring a large fleet, and well sheltered from the violent winds that blow in the Persian Gulf.

Our engraving will give a good idea of the appearance of Bassador. On the point of land to the right is the commodore's residence, distinguished by the flagstaff. The dark building in the rear of the jetty is the hospital; and the low house of two stories, on the extreme left, is the dwelling of a well-known contractor for provisions, called *Cadada*.

The island of Kishm, on which Bassador is situated, is seventy miles in length and twelve in breadth. It is surrounded by several smaller islands, and has on the east side a capital which boasts of some rude fortifications.

From Bassador the fleet will probably move up to the Gulf, and occupy the island of Karrack, or Khareg, a dreary and desolate spot, but important and convenient for operations against the ports of the mainland in general, and Bushire in particular.

BUSHIRE.

Bushire is the principal seaport of Persia, and has a considerable trade. Situated at the extremity of a sandy peninsula, Bushire is defended on the land side by a wall with round towers; while the other sides are enclosed by the sea, which, on the north, forms a harbour lined with wharfs. The merchants of Bushire supply the greater part of the Persian empire with Indian and European commodities. These they generally exchange for silks and unmined gold, and ships from all parts of the world are thus attracted to their port.

The population of Bushire includes Persians, Arabs, and Armenians, and is variously estimated at from 10,000 to double that number. The town consists of about six hundred houses, and nearly as many tenements called "Cajan huts," with two mosques, an old Armenian church, a caravanserai, several baths, a large bazaar, the depot of the East India Company, and the Sheikh's palace, built of white stone, and furnished with hollow turrets, for ventilation. The town has externally a handsome aspect: viewed from the anchorage, it is even imposing—but once in the interior, and the illusion is removed. The houses are mean, and only two storeys high; and the streets irregular, dirty, and not more than six or seven feet wide.

We have mentioned the Sheikh's palace; and we must not forget that "thereby hangs a tale." In 1828, Bushire was governed by a sheik named Abdoel Russoul, who combined every cruelty and every vice, and was a tyrant of the worst kind. This miscreant was in the habit, for the smallest offence, of causing the eyes of the citizens to be put out, their tongues and ears cut off, and practising other iniquities not less flagrant and atrocious. His sins found him out! In 1831, the plague, the most terrible of the scourges of Asia, appeared, and raged with such virulence that, in two months, it swept off one-third of the inhabitants. The town was utterly forsaken, the people flying far into the interior, and not returning till long after the dreaded pestilence had left their blighted shores. The Sheikh escaped with the other inhabitants; but he was assassinated in the midst of a desert between Bushire and Shiraz.

The successor of this petty tyrant erected a handsome palace in the centre of Bushire, a large and convenient edifice, some of the apartments being fitted up in a style combining the comfort of Europe with the splendour of Asia—that splendour so often sought for in vain among the palaces of the East. At no great distance from this building, and near the port, is the house of the British Resident in the service of the East India Company. This functionary has hitherto superintended all the political affairs of the Persian Gulf, endeavoured to preserve peace among the various tribes in the neighbourhood, and kept the British Government informed of the Russian intrigues and Persian conspiracies going forward. The high mountain behind Bushire is named Halliah. Our engraving of the town is from a sketch made by Lieutenant Jackson, of the Indian navy.

According to recent accounts from the East, it was probable that with all practicable despatch, Bushire would be summoned to surrender; and in the event of a refusal, have its defences shattered by the gun-bombs of the fleet, and be taken forcible possession of. Earthworks, or other fortifications of a more scientific character than those they replace, will then be thrown up, and the place will be occupied by the troops, pending the submission or defiance of the Shah. Should the spirit of that Sovereign not give way at the first blow, operations in the interior will be necessary; and for this purpose, the small force about to be despatched from Bombay will be totally inadequate. Even when the fleet sailed rumours were abroad of troops to be sent to the westward through one or both of the famous passes whose names were so well known throughout England fifteen years ago—the Khyber and the Bolan.

PERSIAN SOLDIERS.

At a time when the English Government has been impelled, by considerations of national honour and imperial power, to undertake operations against the Shah of Persia, the engraving, on another page, representing a group of that potentate's irregular troops, will no doubt be interesting to our readers.

The population from which these soldiers are drawn is mixed, being descended from Persians, Turks, Tartars, Georgians, Arabs, and Armenians, who have at various periods held sway in the country. The modern

Persians, formed from the amalgamation of these different races, are a handsome, brave, and generally warlike people, with complexions varying from fair to dark olive, and with quick, lively imaginations. Their address is agreeable, but their characters are insincere, and they are immoral in their habits.

Next week will be published,

A CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Filled with Christmas Pictures, by celebrated Artists, and with Christmas Stories, Christmas Sketches, Christmas Poems, Christmas Charades, and a Christmas Drawing-room Play, written by popular authors, and embracing Pictorial Puzzles, and Humorous Designs, by well-known comic draughtsmen.

Among the Illustrations contained in the Christmas Number, will be the following:—

A CHRISTMAS DANCE AT A COUNTRY-HOUSE (double page engraving) By H. K. BROWNE. (Pict.)
THE RETURN HOME FROM A CHRISTMAS PARTY. By BIRKET FOSTER.

CHRISTMAS A LONG TIME AGO. By JOHN GILBERT.
THE CHRISTMAS FOOL OF THE MIDDLE AGES. By KENNY MEADOWS.
A COUNTRY CHURCH ON THE MORNING OF CHRISTMAS DAY. By J. BROWN.

FORESTERS WITH GAME FOR THE CHRISTMAS BANQUET. By BIRKET FOSTER.

GATHERING MISLETOE. By A. SLADER.
FOUR CHRISTMAS DESIGNS. By COLEMAN—

1. The Farm and Poultry Yard.
2. Gathering Christmas Fruits.
3. Preparing the Christmas Banquet.
4. Bringing in the Christmas Dishes.

A CHRISTMAS TREE. By H. K. BROWNE (Pict.).
MAKING CHRISTMAS PURCHASES. By E. HULL.

CHRISTMAS IN THE MINING DISTRICTS. By J. BROWN.
HOW HOBBS AND NORRIS RETURNING HOME FROM A CHRISTMAS PARTY WERE NOT GAROTTED. Depicted in Twenty Tableaux.

CHRISTMAS PLEASURES AND ANNOYANCES. By MCCONNELL.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1856.

NAPIER VERSUS PEEL.

WE have never hesitated to say that Sir Charles Napier has his faults and weaknesses. He is a little too fond of the *popularis aura*, and he has a certain dash of ostentation. But we know his merits even better; and in the matter of Sir Robert Peel's assault on him, we are of opinion that he has been used cruelly—and meanly.

After all, when two men are in a controversy, we must fall back on the questions, who they are, and what they have respectively done. Sir Charles, however ancient and noble his birth may be, has yet risen by his own merit. He was at sea as a boy of thirteen; he was "off Boulogne" in the time of most of our grandfathers; he was fighting French corvettes and taking French fortresses in 1808-9. He has led an active and distinguished life—fought well, and written well. Sir Robert Peel, if you take away—even his money—is nobody. His early life presented nothing that anybody would wish to remember—if not perhaps something that he himself would wish to forget. His talents are thoroughly ordinary; and as for his "discretion," it was a byword among political men in London before he meddled with Napier at all. In fact, the secret of what popularity he has is curious. It is found in the fact that his brother Fred. is so respectable and red-tape a mediocrity, as to make a fast mediocrity of a brother welcome. Because one is slow, people are glad to find the other fast. Yet the difference is only of temperament, not of brains; one is "still" gooseberry, the other "sparkling" gooseberry. They are equally heavy; but Fred. is a pound of lead, and Robert a pound of feathers.

However, the late Sir Robert was so eminent and so good a man—one whose family had risen so entirely by merit, and who had such merit himself—that the world has received his children with a kindness quite disproportionate to their promise. Under these circumstances, his heir ought to be careful. When he returned from Russia, he should have availed himself of his experience with some kind of propriety; he should not have let loose against a great naval commander—even though the man had disappointed his admirers—with the roystering freedom of an "after dinner" speech. This alone was a piece of taste quite unworthy of the position in which his family now is. But this was not the worst; for, by re-producing a sentence or two of his speech, and comparing it with a recent answer of the Admiral's, we shall see that he was guilty of more than a breach of the common laws of courtesy. Sir Robert Peel told his Stafford audience, on the 21st of October, that "he had visited the fortress of Cronstadt, and there was but one opinion, from the Grand Duke Constantine down to the youngest 'middy' on board the *Vladimir*, that had the energy of the commander equalled the pluck of the British navy—that fortress, at the present moment, would be crumbled in the dust."

Now, the Grand Duke Constantine—as his letter to Napier shows—never gave Peel the least authority for any such use of his name. Indeed, how could he have been such a fool? If he was desponding enough to hold such a belief, he would never have been goose enough to express it. The truth obviously is, that Peel made the statement without authority, and with the real intention of treading the "Times." Ever since Napier exposed the impudence of the "Times" editor in writing him a letter of censure to the Baltic, that paper has abused him with equal virulence and consistency. "Times" and Admiralty are both hounding down a man who is of the highest importance to the people, as a kind of "Queen's evidence" against the blackhead abominations of the Admiralty system.

We are very sorry that Napier did not take Cronstadt. But it is a question for Sir Howard Douglas, Burgoyne, and such men, how he should have set about it, or whether he should have set about it at all. If he could have done it, why not Dundas? If Dundas had gun-bombs, why had not Napier? Sir Robert Peel's "Copenhagen" talk is as laughable as his jokes ought to be. Napier may be no more like Nelson than he (Peel) is like Pitt; but the details by which comparative attacks on forgers are to be estimated, are entirely matters for professional discussion. This journal freely censured Sir Charles's ostentation early in the campaign, but we never presumed to decide naval questions in this fashion. Why should this wandering government subordinate do so, as if such grave matters were as easy to learn as *roulette*?

We direct our readers' especial attention to the opinion of Lord Palmerston, as conveyed to us through the medium of Sir Charles's letter of the 5th. That opinion is to the effect that Sir Charles "in

the then existing state of things, acted with sound judgment in refraining from attacking the batteries at Cronstadt." Before this can be disproved, we must have more professional evidence than has yet been put before the world.

It is not pleasant to see an English admiral getting the authority of a Russian Grand-Duke in a matter of English controversy. But the necessity was imposed on Napier by his enemy, and no other alternative in defending himself was left him.

The whole affair is dishonourable to the country, and must afford the highest amusement to Constantine and his friends. They must laugh to see a Sir Robert Peel in the Admiralty above all. But the Admiralty is a clique in the hands of Berkeley and Co., and as it would still be bad if Sir Robert were out of it, we need not, perhaps, trouble ourselves much about his being in.

SAVINGS AND DINGS.

THE SOUTHERN COLLECTION OF OBJECTS OF VIRTUE, illustrative of the education of decorative art at the period of the Renaissance, is now open to inspection of the public at Marlborough House.

ARCHDEACON DENSON'S APPEAL has been discussed by Sir John Dalrymple, Dean of the Court of Arches.

A GENTLEMAN'S SERVANT AT FLEMING is said to have come into the picture gallery by the great door, in the Court of Chancery, of a street which has been closed on for upwards of a century.

LORD ERNEST VANE is said to have gone to Egypt.

FOUR THIEVES got into the Convent of the Bernabites, in San Carlo, at Palermo, and after tying the provincial head and foot, made him confess what he kept the money of the convent, and thus obtained possession of about 14,000*l.* in gold, with which they made off, forgetting to release him.

THE WIDOW OF LORD BYRON, the poet, has become Baroness Wentworth in her own right, by the death of Lord Seaford, on the 12th inst.

THE COMMITTEE formed for carrying out the selection of candidates for the Victoria Cross, has commenced to sit at the Horse Guards.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HOLLAND, vacated by Sir John Hindmarsh, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. Richard Pattinson.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY, on Saturday, declared a dividend of 3*l.* per cent. for the half-year, a bonus of 1*l.* per paid up share, and 4*l.* per share, all free of income-tax, on the 29th inst.

THE REV. DR. LIVINGSTONE has arrived in England, and his friends have invited him to a dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 16th.

A RAILWAY BRIDGE across the Rosetta branch of the Nile, at Kafr Luss, has been contracted for in England at £135,000.

THE LIVERPOOL GRAND POULTRY SHOW will take place on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of Jan. In addition to the usual liberal prizes in money, no less than sixteen silver cups or pieces of plate will be awarded to successful exhibitors.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE has decreed a grant of 3,000 francs to found an annual prize for any discovery of means of cure in diseases hitherto deemed incurable; such as hydrophobia, cancer, epilepsy, typhus, cholera, &c.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., has just visited Florence.

A WEALTHY GENTLEMAN in Boston (U.S.) has ordered of the American Bible Society a number of imperial quarto Bibles, bound in Turkey morocco, with panel covers, each to be enclosed in a rosewood case, and presented to each of the crowned heads of the world.

THE POLISH-RUSSIAN POST was waylaid near the village of Wilanow, on the road between Plock and Warsaw, on the 31st of October last, and robbed of the sum of 8,000 roubles silver, in paper money. The conductor of the mail and the postilion were killed.

A RATHER SEVERE SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE was experienced in Kentucky last month.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has presented a magnificent mantle of white velvet and gold to "the miraculous image of Our Lady of Monserrat."

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ELECTORATE OF HESSE has the intention of proposing to the Chambers a Bill to prevent the division of rural property into minute lots.

A DOSKEY has been presented to a customer by the landlord of the Bird in Hand Inn, Colchester, as a reward for the faithful performance of a promise not to swear or use profane language for the term of six months.

MR. MATHEW, late British Consul at Philadelphia, has been appointed to a similar post at Odessa.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE AT FERRARA (Italy) has just been condemned by default for smuggling transactions on an enormous scale.

A SILVER-HILTED SWORD, bearing on each side the figures of a thistle, lion rampant, and the date 1500, and a steel helmet, have been dug up at Ffoidlen.

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY has adopted a plan for a new City Hall, at an estimated cost of about five million of dollars.

THE "ÖSTERREICHISCHE KORRESPONDENZ" has officially announced the entire prohibition of the "Nord."

LORD ELCHO urges the Government to give the Royal Academy notice to quit that portion of the present National Gallery which they now occupy. There would then be ample room, says his Lordship, for the exhibition of the Turner bequest and all the pictures which the nation is likely to possess for many years to come.

THE 36TH REGIMENT, stationed at Newcastle, has suffered severely from yellow fever. Since June last, two officers and fifty-four men have fallen victims to it. Hitherto this station has been considered above fever range.

AN AMERICAN PAPER says that a human skeleton, measuring ten feet nine inches in length, and with jaws and teeth almost as large as a horse's, has been exhumed at East Wheeling.

DR. COXE, sub-librarian at the Bodleian, is about to start for the Levant in search of MSS. Mr. Curzon, we understand, has given valuable information to the Government as to the existence of Greek scrolls in various monasteries of the East; and the University has given Dr. Coxe leave of absence for twelve months at the request of the Government.

THE PARIS COACHBUILDERS are now busily employed in preparing sledges, which, it would appear, are to be the fashion this winter, provided there is snow enough to render them available.

MR. MORRIS MOORE, having first obtained leave to reside at Berlin (after his arrest, was ordered on Thursday week to leave the city within twenty-four hours).

A FORTNE-TRELLER established himself in Stroud (Gloucestershire) last week; and notwithstanding the boasted enlightenment of the 19th century, scores of silly women, and even some no less silly men, rushed to consult the magician.

ANN BROWNE recently died at Whitehaven, at the age of 101. For more than seventy years she was an inveterate smoker, and three days before her death was seen drawing consolation from a short pipe.

THAT PART OF THE STONE PROPERTY, called the Sackville Estate, which has been twice offered by public sale, and which consists of the Castle Farm and some other lands and houses, has been sold to Mr. Vernon, formerly of Towersey, but now of Northampton, for the sum of £23,500.

MR. THACKERAY, who delivered a lecture on "Humour and Charity," in London, for the benefit of Mr. Reach, while he lay ill, is about to redeliver the lecture at Edinburgh for the benefit of Reach's widow.

MR. DE ROCHOU has appeared to the Prussian Chambers to reconsider the sentence of imprisonment passed upon him for killing M. Hinkeldey in a duel.

PRINCE NAPOLEON BONAAPARTE intends, it is said, making a voyage next year to the Indian and China Seas, visiting Ceylon, Borneo, Java, &c. He will be accompanied, as on his first voyage, by some distinguished savants and litterateurs.

DANCING at the wedding of widows and widowers has been prohibited by the authorities at Wurtzburg. At Leipzig a literary man named Prutz has been prohibited from reading any more lectures in public or even in private.

MR. JOHN COLLETT, of Amwell House, near Tynnington, has committed suicide. He was a Liberal, a member of the Administrative Reform Society, the Ballot Society, and of the Committee for aiding Aversa, Westerton and Beal in their Anti-Pusycyte campaign.

TWO ATTEMPTS have been made in the neighbourhood of Liverpool to upset railway trains; in both cases the points were so wedged up with stones as to cause great difficulty in their removal.

J. H. SADLER is now said to have turned up in Australia. The editor of a Sydney paper has received a letter from a person whose word he can rely on, stating that the swindler lives, or recently lived, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SCOTTISH HOSPITAL took place on Tuesday night at the London Tavern. The Lord Mayor presided. Sir Fenwick Williams, General Monteith, General Campbell, and Judge Halliburton, the Haytian Chargé d'Affaires, were present.

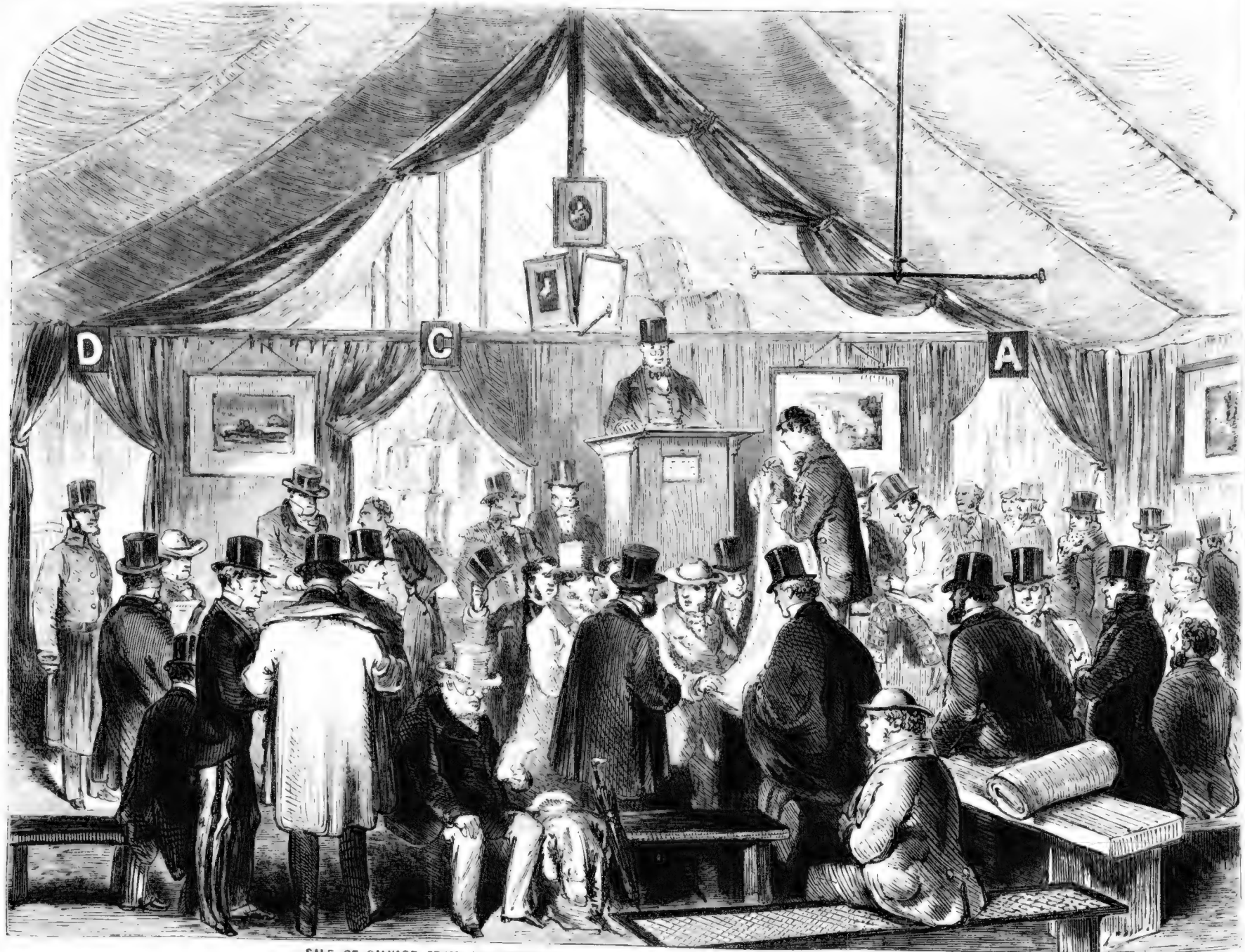


BUSHIRE, ON THE PERSIAN GULF.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUTENANT JACKSON, OF THE INDIAN NAVY.—SEE PAGE 393.)

West Coast of Africa on the 26th of September last, and was driven on shore, in the severe storm of the 28th of September, on Dymchurch Wall, Kent. The value of the ship and cargo was £10,000, and these were insured at Lloyd's and the Insurance Companies in London for that amount. On the news of the wreck reaching London, Mr. W. Barter of Lloyd's was despatched immediately to the spot, and he succeeded in

saving the whole of the cargo. The hard goods were sold at Fenning's Wharf, about three weeks since, and the soft or drapery goods were sent to the bleaching works of Messrs. Lyon, Old Kent Road, to be cleared from salt water and put in condition for sale. From their great bulk it was difficult to find a suitable warehouse wherein to place them for sale. A marquee, 150 feet in length, was erected by Edgington in a field adjoining

the premises of Messrs. Lyon. Great interest was taken in this from the fact of its being the first of its kind of any magnitude in London, and the circumstance of its being under canvas gave to it a novelty effect generally. To obviate any inconvenience resulting from the wetness of the weather, at this particular time of the year, the sale-room was lighted with gas.



SALE OF SALVAGE FROM THE WRECK OF THE *IDA*, AT LYON'S BLEACHING WORKS, OLD KENT ROAD.



A GROUP OF POLYANTHUS NARCISSUS.

THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.—NO. 12.

The early November frosts played such havoc with the last lingering bloom of the geraniums and verbenas in the balconies, to say nothing of the hard lot of the mignonette and other old summer favourites, that they have been doubtless long since removed, to be replaced by neat plants of *Pompona Chrysanthemum*. The yellow, white, crimson, bronze-toned, and orange blossoms of this plant, come in so gaily in dark November, that they impart to that dreary month almost the brightness of a second summer. But these have now given way to the pots of hardy evergreens, which are to form the only balcony decoration through the winter months.

Even within doors, too, the latest autumnal flowers, such as the hoisted chrysanthemums, are getting past their best, and something must be sought to replace them. There is no plant so fitted for this at this season as the China primrose, which, with proper culture, should now be coming into blossom. There is the Christmas rose, too, (*Helleborus niger*), which, though a hardy garden perennial, will flower in a pot, if the soil be kept constantly moist, but not wet. Its large white flowers, which appear during the close of December and the beginning of January, form very attractive objects at that wintry season, clustering among their dark and shining green foliage, to which they form a striking contrast. But the grand floral interest of the winter months in room gardening is to be found in the cultivation of bulbous roots; and at this season the vast quantities imported annually from Holland, principally for window gardening, is extraordinary. Among these, Van Thol tulips (those pretty little sweet-scented tulips, that flower in January and February) and hyacinths, are the grand staple; and few rooms are without an object of floral interest, in the shape of one or other of these beautiful plants. In hyacinths the variety is so great that almost any effect of colour may be produced by a judicious selection, either for pot growth, or in the gracefully-formed

glasses so long in use for that purpose. We therefore recommend that the growth of hyacinths and our old favourites, the Van Thol tulips, both double and single, should not be neglected by those who love to watch the progress and gradual development of floral growth at a time when its aspect is so rare. Nevertheless, the principal object of this article is to suggest the introduction of plants as winter objects of room-culture which have been less used for that purpose.

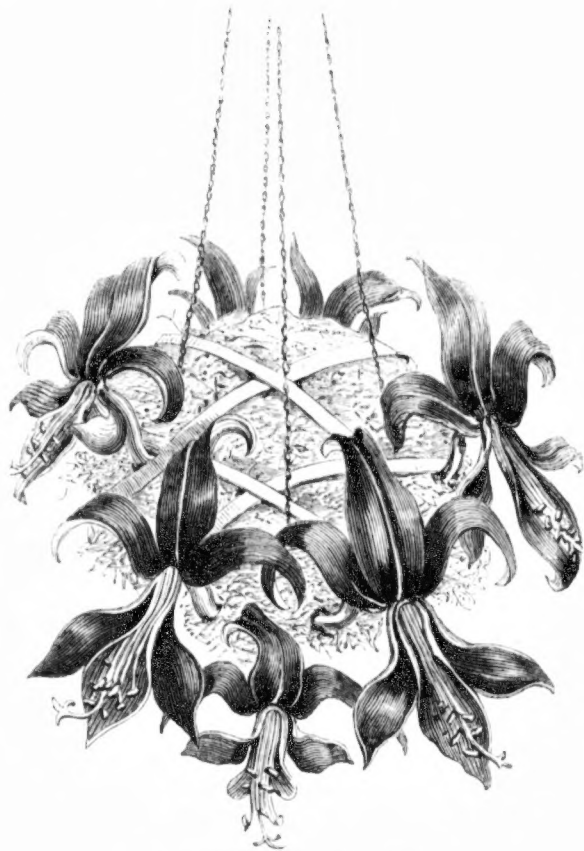
Our first illustration, therefore, shows a group of polyanthus narcissus, consisting of *Narcissus Orientalis* and its varieties, surrounded at the base by a plantation of large single snowdrops. To produce the effect of this design, a deep saucer of the kind sold by Hooper and Co., of the Central Avenue, Covent Garden, should be procured. In the centre of this, a common pot saucer of a much smaller size must be placed in an inverted position, as a stand for the narcissus pot; the bottom of this saucer should be strewn over to the depth of an inch or so with small broken pieces of old flower-pots, and then a layer of mould to the depth of about another inch. Upon this place the snowdrop bulbs—picked bulbs, such as are sold by Messrs. Hooper and other seedsmen for pot-culture, covering them up with another layer of mould, and then with one of fresh moss. The same process is to be followed with respect to the pots for the narcissus bulbs, only making the first layer of mould much deeper, leaving the bulbs partially above the surface, in order to allow room for their long fibrous roots to strike downwards.* Both saucer and pot should be dressed with a slight open frame of green basket-work, lined with moss, such as is sold at the seed-shops for that purpose; or they might be enclosed in pasteboard cases, painted to imitate basket-work, which has a very pretty effect. In the last case, if the basket-work be coloured bright red and nicely shaded, and the interstices be tinted with green and olive tones of moss (which should be painted from nature), the effect is exceedingly good; and when nicely cut out at the top edge (the edge itself being coloured) the appearance is quite deceptive. We have seen the three great drawing-room windows of an old country mansion decorated with groups of snowdrop and narcissus thus arranged, which, when placed upon a handsome stand, form very elegant and striking objects. At the same elegant home—all the extraneous decorations of

which are superintended by the young ladies of the family—we have seen another floral decoration, during the winter months, which we always thought peculiarly striking.

This was formed by a cluster of the beautiful Jacobea Lily (*Sprekelia formosissima*) suspended from the ceiling of the bay windows. This beautiful plant, the deep carmine-tone flowers of which are so remarkable both for their elegant shape and rich colour, was named by Clusius the Jacobea Lily, as he tells us in his "*Historia Plantarum*," because it reminded him of the badge of the crimson sword worn by the Spanish knights of the Order of St. James, in commemoration of the great victory obtained by the Cid over the Moors, under the protection of the patron Saint of Spain. The bulbs of this plant will put forth their magnificent flowers in due season, under almost any circumstances; with or without mould, with or without moisture. But if a cluster of the bulbs be placed carefully together, the growing points fixed in different directions, and then enveloped in moss, kept moist by the daily supply of a small quantity of water, they will blossom very luxuriantly. In this manner the effect above alluded to was produced. The moss was bound together with deep purple bands symmetrically arranged, and suspended by four light chains or strings from the ceiling of the window, as stated. The contrast of the purple bands and bright green moss, produced a very pleasing effect before the flowers began to appear; but when these eventually shot forth, and developed their elegant forms and gorgeous colour upon the green and purple ground, they formed a display which, of the kind, we have never seen surpassed. We strongly recommend it to our readers. The points of the bulbs should be left to project slightly through the moss, and the whole should be taken down from its position occasionally and watered, in a convenient situation, by means of an ordinary watering pan with a finely pierced rose, after which it should not be replaced till it has ceased to drip.

In addition to the foregoing suggestions for the adoption of plants less familiarly known than the constantly seen hyacinth or Van Thol tulip, for the purpose of chamber decoration, we ought to mention another bulbous rooted plant well adapted for room culture at the present season, which will, we think, prove a novelty to many of our readers. It has been long known to nurserymen as a plant well suited to in-door culture, and almost any other kind of artificial forcing. We allude to the elegant *Iris Persica*, which was brought from Persia in 1627 for Henrietta Maria, the Queen of the unfortunate Charles the First, who was passionately fond of flowers. It has ever since remained an ornament to well-furnished gardens, especially those of our ancient mansions, where the old favourites have not been too recklessly superseded by less worthy novelties. In the open ground it flowers about March or April, but in a warm room, planted about the end of November or beginning of December, it will produce its elegant blossoms by the end of January. The flowers are of that peculiarly elegant shape common to all the iris tribe, the tones of colour being various—from the richest cerulean blue, the three drooping petals being marked with a patch of brilliant orange, beautifully spotted with black. As these elegant flowers generally appear before the foliage, a little arrangement will be necessary, in order to exhibit them to the greatest advantage. For this purpose we propose, in the first place, that a rustic stand, similar to the one in the illustration, be provided, which should be about ten inches square. Having been prepared half way up with the usual kind of drainery, the rest of the space may be filled with a

* The plants represented are—*Narcissus Orientalis*, *Narcissus Trewianus* (a splendid variety), and *Narcissus Concolor*. But these, if not readily procurable at the seedsmen's, may be replaced by the varieties commonly known as double Roman *Narcissus*, *Grand prius*, and other trade varieties, all of which are exceedingly handsome.

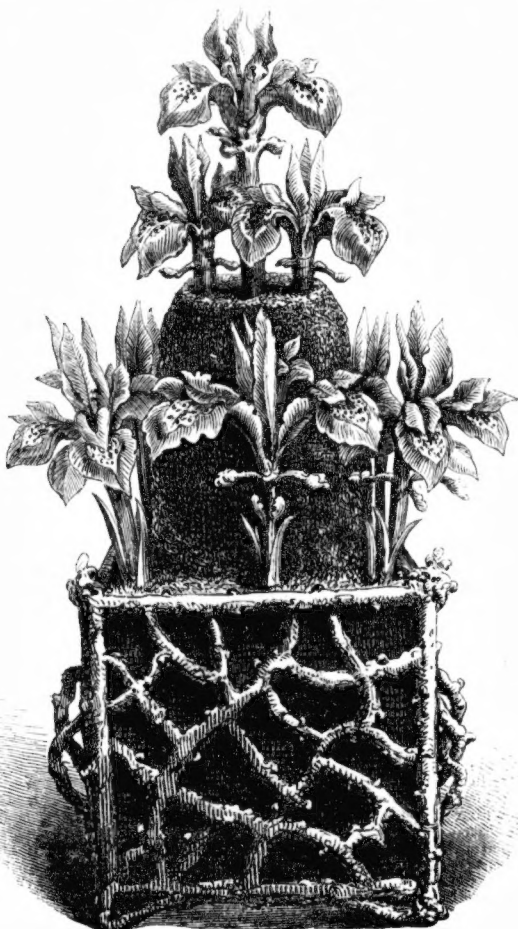


A CLUSTER OF JACOBEE LILIES.

light rich soil. On the surface of the soil a deep narrow pot about four inches in diameter should be firmly placed, which, with the aid of any kind of ligatures, should be entirely clothed (externally) in moss; the soil of the rustic stand should be similarly covered. In the square stand there will be room for eight bulbs, planted so as to show three on each side, the flowers of which, by means of the moss-clothed pot in the centre, will be provided with a pleasing green background, in the absence of their own natural foliage. The pot in the centre will also afford the means of concealing another defect in this pretty plant. It is rather dwarfish in its habit, but by thus growing it in two storeys, as it were, a sufficient height for a pleasing effect will be attained.

This will be effected, as shown in the design, by planting four of the bulbs in the raised pot, three of them in a triangle, and one of them in the centre. By planting the three external bulbs rather deep in the soil, and the central one very near the surface, the desirable gradation of height will be gained, as shown in the drawing—a result which may be still farther secured by selecting the strongest bulb for the centre. If the plants should be successfully grown, for which only ordinary care would be required, we feel certain that this method of cultivating the Persian iris will prove gratifying to those of our readers who may attempt it.

So far as to the cultivation of plants which to many of our readers may be novelties. We will now say a few words on the treatment of our old friend, the ever-beautiful hyacinth, and endeavour to suggest a form of culture which will impart a new aspect to an old favourite. To produce the effect we are about to describe, the first object that is necessary is a large flower-pot saucer of about thirteen inches in diameter; the next thing required will be a cone of very open basket work in the form of an inverted flower pot, about nine or ten inches in diameter at the base, and about ten inches high, which can be made at any basketmaker's for a



A GROUP OF PERSIAN IRIS.



A CONE OF HYACINTHS.

rifle, as shown by the miniature diagram. Or, with a few willow twigs and a little string, a rude, home-made substitute might be easily contrived. Having filled the flower pot with a good rich soil and a sufficient quantity of drainers, the open cone of basket work is to be placed in the centre, the broad end downwards, and securely fixed. Six hyacinth bulbs may then be placed at equal distances within the basket-work cone, their sides being upon the soil contained in the flower-pot saucer, and their points protruding through the openings of the basket work. A covering of moss must then be laid round the outside of the basket-work to the height of the first layer of bulbs, which bulbs must then be covered with earth to the height of the moss, which, if properly attached, will prevent any particles of the earth from escaping. Another layer of moss must now be added of about equal height with the first, and then another layer of soil inside of the basket-work cone to the height of this new layer of moss; a second row of bulbs, five in number, may then be put in, followed by another external circle of moss, the second set of bulbs being then covered with earth, like the first. The design exhibits a third row of four, added in a similar manner; above which is placed one terminal bulb, forming the apex of the group. The whole, when in flower, if the colours have been judiciously selected, will form a very attractive and even beautiful ornament, and one which may be grown without the slightest risk of failure; a little water being added each day to keep the bulbs in a requisite state of moisture, without amounting to absolute wetness. From the time the hyacinths begin to show their first shoots of foliage to the time of their perfect inflorescence, they will continue to form together a very pleasing object of daily interest; and, in the mean time, a row of crocuses of various sorts will have come into bloom before the hyacinths, and have supplied the fascinating effects of floral colour while the hyacinths remain still in budding progress. The flowers round the base of the saucer are not such as can be procured at the seedsmen's or bulb dealer's, but must be procured in the form of coloured worsted, at the nearest Berlin warehouse, and wrought into their floral forms by a process well known to ladies who take pleasure in such household elegancies; the luxuriant worsted moss in which they are studded being produced by a very ingenious process, also well known to the accomplished worsted worker. Such a mat imparts a great degree of elegance and finish to an object of this kind; and the artificial flowers in no way detract from the effect of the natural ones.

THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER ON SELF-MURDER.

The Bishop of Chichester has addressed a somewhat remarkable letter to Sir George Grey, the substance of which is as follows:—

A young woman, named Harriet Frogley, in service in the house of a farmer named Knight, in Lodsworth, rose as usual on Thursday morning, 27th ult., churned, and afterwards, having put on her bonnet and shawl, slipped out of the house unobserved, and went to Midhurst, about four miles distant. She there purchased two penny worth of arsenic. The young man who served her hesitated; but she stated that he need not fear her—that she had arsenic there before for her master, who used it to destroy rats. The books showed this to be true, and she obtained the arsenic. She then went to a field near the farmhouse, where a cart, which lived in a separate part of her master's house, was at work. She started on her death-bed that she should have, when she accused of being the father of her unborn child, what she had got, and, as he gave her no satisfaction, to use her own words, went to a risk and took it. This appears to have been about one o'clock. About five she was found in great suffering in an out-building by a boy, who mentioned her being there to a chorwman employed in the house. She went to her, and by about half-past five the perpetual curate of the parish, the Rev. Leonard Storer Clarke, was with her. By his persuasion, for at first objection was made to receiving her into the house, she was once again placed in her own room in the farmhouse, where great kindness seems to have been shown her, and where she expired about eleven on the 28th ult. Medical advice had been duly obtained, and regular attention bestowed, and Mr. Clarke also repeated his visits.

At the inquest, no witness was called who had seen her between the time of her leaving her bed and being seen in the out-building, excepting the chorwman before spoken of. The Coroner (Mr. Blagden, who had served her with the arsenic, and who the man was to whom she had gone to the field. Doubtless, she had been seen by, and had conversed with, others also in the course of the morning, before she took the poison, but no inquiry was made for any such. The Coroner is stated to have opened the inquest, by informing the jury that his predecessor in the office, and himself hitherto, had never returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and he trusted he never should be called upon to do so. This admits of two constructions; but I am further informed that, in the course of his remarks, he also stated to the jury that it was inconceivable that a man could be in a sane state of mind at the time of destroying himself; in short, that the tendency and evident purpose of his remarks to the jury was to influence them not to entertain the thought of a verdict of *felo de se*.

The verdict, as it appeared in the coroner's warrant, is, that Harriet Frogley "wilfully took poison, to wit arsenic, from the effect of which she died on the 28th inst., but as to the state of her mind at the time of taking such poison, no evidence appeared to the jury to enable them to determine therein according to law. These are, therefore, to certify, that you may lawfully permit the body of the said Harriet Frogley to be buried; and for so doing, this is your warrant."

I complain of his having returned such a verdict—last, on the ground of its inconsistency and insufficiency on the face of it. No construction can be put on the word "wilfully," but what must be at variance with the other statement, that no evidence appeared to the jury to enable them to determine according to law as to the state of the suicide's mind at the time of taking the poison. Secondly, I complain that he had no right to state that no evidence appeared on that point, seeing he did not call those who he knew could have given evidence upon it. By what questions the chorwman, who saw the poor girl in the morning, and afterwards at five o'clock, and onwards till her death, was examined, I do not know; but the verdict declares she gave no evidence of insanity. There must have been others also who saw her in the morning, and he does not appear to have inquired for them. He did not call the chorwman who served the arsenic, nor the cart, nor the boy who first found her, nor Mr. Clarke, who was in the room throughout the inquest. He laid it down to the jury that evidence as to the suicide's state of mind, after committing the act, would be no evidence of the state of mind at the moment of committing it. In some sense this is true; but it is not true as to the bearing indirectly of such evidence upon the moment of committing the act; and in the present case it is especially untrue, for the poor girl herself declared, with entire self-collectedness, with what intention she had taken the arsenic.

The reasons of my troubling you with this complaint are as follows:—The mind and conscience of Mr. Clarke were not relieved by the evasive verdict under which the churchwardens demanded of him interment of the body of the deceased with the burial service of the Church. He believed himself forbidden, by the rubric prefixed to the burial service, so to enter it, under the circumstances, and with only such a coroner's verdict as was exhibited to him. The body was decently committed, in daylight, to the churchyard ground on the 4th instant, in the presence of one of the churchwardens, but without any religious service.

If Mr. Clarke is not justified in his refusal, he ought to be suspended for three months, under the 68th canon of our Church. And, secondly, the matter affects me; because being cognisant, as I am, of the above circumstances, I ought to take steps for doing right to the relatives of the deceased, and to the parishioners of Lodsworth generally, by so suspending Mr. Clarke, if he has truly brought himself under liability to that censure and penalty. But he complains that difficulty and embarrassment have been thrown upon him, and I complain that difficulty and embarrassment are thrown upon me also, by the shortcomings and improper proceedings of the coroner. I feel I have set these forth sufficiently to justify me in respectfully demanding that the circumstances be formally inquired into. And I further respectfully represent that, if they are found—as I believe they will—to be substantially according to the foregoing statements, they show Mr. Blagden to be unfit to be continued in the office of coroner.

"Before I conclude, I deem it right to animadvert upon another point. It does not appear that the cart, to whom the poor girl intimated her intention of destroying herself, took any step to prevent her carrying her threat into execution. He is obviously censurable; I presume he may be punishable for this omission. By failing to call him, the Coroner precluded himself from giving any useful admonition, or taking any stronger measure that might be open to him upon this point—I have the honour to be, with much respect, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

"A. T. CROCHER."

THE BISHOP OF LONDON recently attended a meeting convened to promote the erection of additional churches in Islington.

NAPIER OF SCINDE.—A correspondent informs us that we were in error last week, in attributing to Sir C. J. Napier the abolition of slavery in Scinde, as forced labour existed in that province up to last year. He also notifies that Napier could not have abolished suttee, as the inhabitants of Scinde are not Hindus, but Mahomedans, among which sect the practice of suttee never existed. A second correspondent calls our attention to a slip of the pen in our description of the statue. It seems that we stated the figure held a scroll in the left hand and a sword in the right, whereas it should have been vice versa.

"REBECCA" OBJECTS TO SALMON PRESERVES.—On Saturday week "Rebecca" made her appearance in Camtoydder (Radnorshire), and from thence proceeded over the bridge to Rhayader, accompanied by about eighty of her "daughters," forming a procession of four abreast. First went "Rebecca," carrying a gun, supported by two sacred-lancers, right and left, with their faces blacked, and their shirts worn over their clothes, after the fashion of monks' frocks, with a handkerchief tied around their heads. These were followed by five ranks, four abreast, each outside man carrying a cut-throat sword, and the inside men spears and poles. Then followed four men, carrying a carriage similar to a street-car, with a large quantity of straw tied up in bundles. These were succeeded by a long train, four abreast, carrying guns, spears, pike-sticks, and other weapons. They proceeded to opposite the Lion Hotel, where they fired two guns, and thence marched round the Market Place, where they fired again; thence they proceeded to Camtoydder Bridge, where they were joined by a reserve of about forty or fifty more, all with their faces blacked, and in the same kind of dress. They arrived at the Grove, the first ford and the bidding place of the salmon; the horn blew, and a gun was fired, which was the signal for commencing the attack; but the depredators did not succeed according to their expectations, as only three fish upon the first ford fell into their hands. The whole party then proceeded to a second ford, where the same signal was given—five of them entered the water with their spears and lights, and commenced the same destruction. There would have been a great slaughter, had it not been for the conservator of the river, an old salmon fisher on the river Wye for upwards of forty years. He, anticipating the visitors, well disturbed the foris a few minutes before the enemy approached, so that only six small ones were killed. While they were killing the fish, Mr. Talac, steward of Mr. D. Prickeard, of Darw, advanced nearer than was considered desirable, and a gun was fired at him; but, fortunately, only one shot reached him, and entered his elbow. David Price, a sawyer of the town, who out of curiosity went towards the river, had three spears placed at his breast, and was ordered to retreat. The marauders then proceeded to different fords on the Wye and Eilan, but did not succeed in killing so many fish as they expected. The whole number was supposed not to exceed thirty.

IMPORTANT HINT TO RAILWAY TRAVELLERS.—A short time ago, a gentleman being about to proceed to India, was anxious to pay a visit to his mother, who was at Reading, before he left England, and he took a ticket for that place by the Great Western Railway. While he was in the waiting-room, he happened to show money, in notes and gold, in his pocket book, which he placed in the breast pocket of his inner coat. He got into an empty compartment of a first-class carriage, and was followed by a fashionably-dressed and gentlemanly-looking man, who, as soon as the train started, addressed some observations to the gentleman, the result of which was a polite conversation between them upon a variety of matters, in which the stranger showed that he was acquainted with a number of well-known sporting men, and could converse on all the topics of the day. He presently took from his pocket a small case, containing a flask and a glass; into the latter he poured some sherry, which he drank, and was about to return the flask to the case, when he suddenly begged his fellow-passenger's pardon for not asking him to take a glass with him at first, and hoped he would allow him the pleasure, &c. The gentleman assented, and a glass was handed him, the contents of which he drank. He dozed off asleep, and did not wake until the train arrived at Swindon, when he found himself alone; his pockets had been cut open, and he had been robbed of £69; but, fortunately, a larger sum had not been found by the thief. It is supposed that the flask was a double one, and that out of one part the delinquent helped himself to a glass of red sherry, while his companion was helped to some drugged liquor, which, having produced its effect, the thief rifled his pockets, and got out of the train at an intermediate station.

THE BRITISH BANK.—SURRENDER OF THE DIRECTORS.—Seven of the directors of the Royal British Bank, Mr. Esdaile, Mr. Atkinson Kennedy, Mr. Valiant, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Gillett, Mr. M. Reed, and Mr. Hunt, attended at the London Court of Bankruptcy, on Friday week, and there surrendered was taken in the course of the proceedings, and protection given.

SCINDE IN HOUSEHOLD LANE JAIL.—A few days since, Samuel George Lucas, aged thirty-seven, a married man, having a family of three children, committed suicide in the Surrey County Jail. He was charged with burglary at Epsom, and examined before the county magistrates on the 25th ult., by whom he was remanded for re-examination. He was found quite dead. It appeared that he had fastened his stockings round his neck, and fixed the end to the bar over the doorway, but his weight had broken the stockings, and he fell. The stockings, however, held his neck so tightly that he was strangled.

DARING OFFENCE.—ROBBERY OF THREE HUNDRED POUNDS.—Mr. Bradley, an extensive brewer, lives about two miles from Sheffield. About ten o'clock on Friday morning week, Mrs. Bradley, who occupied a small room at the back of the house, to be near her mother, who was sick, heard the noise of thieves in the house. Mrs. Bradley ran to her husband's room, and was endeavouring to wake him, when four masked men entered at the door. One carried a dark lantern, another a revolver, and the others were armed with bludgeons. They immediately attacked Mr. Bradley as he lay, but their blows fell on the pillow; but on raising his arm to shield his head, one finger was fractured, and another cut to the bone. He leant out of bed, and his wife, who is a stout person, placed herself before him, while both begged that their lives might be spared. The thieves accordingly ransacked the house for about an hour, and then rejoined two other men keeping watch on the lawn. The burglars carried away property in money, watches, plate, &c., to the value of £300. The revolver which one of the men had, was Mr. Bradley's own property, and was taken from a sideboard.

LAW AND CRIME.

THOMAS GRAW was charged at S. A. Arkwright with having in his possession eighty-three silver pencil-cases, three tooth-picks, and five silver knives, strongly resembling similar property lately stolen from a silversmith in the City, and which the prisoner, who was a hawker, and found insensibly drunk with the articles upon him, alleged to have purchased from a hawker, in October last, for twelve pounds. As this sum was proved to be beyond the value of the goods, and duplicates for necessary articles pawned since the alleged purchase were found on the prisoner, he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment; the magistrate, as any other man would have done, disbelieving his story. The same punishment of two months' imprisonment was on the day before awarded at Ross, in Herefordshire, to George Gilet, who had been discovered walking under a hedge, with his little brother aged ten, the inference being that they were in pursuit of rabbits. At that same sessions at Ross, at which two clergymen, an officer, a doctor, a barrister, and a couple of country squires a ministered justice, tempered with humanity, a poor old country labourer, aged seventy, was charged with having caught a hare in a wire on the lands of his employer, who had given authority to catch hares or rabbits on his fields, promising to indemnify the man from all consequences. For catching this hare the old fellow was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour. This kind of tyranny, for it is no less, is peculiar to rural districts, and to the peculiar law dispensed by a bench consisting of the Rev. Mr. Minos, Parson Trulliber, Doctor Rhadmanthus, Lawyer Draco, Major Thraso, and Squire Western. The inhabitants of London do not feel its effects. Such a sentence on a metropolitan day-labourer by a paid magistrate, would ferment the entire press into leading articles. At present, it is true, little can be done against the system except to record its incidents as they occur, but it is sincerely to be hoped that another session of Parliament will not leave the liberties of our rural fellow-countrymen, and the credit of our judicial administration, at the mercy of decisions so constantly and diametrically at variance with the spirit of the age, as those pronounced by provincial justices of the peace.

On Thursday last, Mr. E. White, of Essex Street, solicitor, appeared at the Westminster County Court as defendant, upon a judgment summons, for money collected by him. He produced an office copy of his schedule in insolvency, in which the sum appeared, but in consequence of some alleged informality, the judge suspended his decision. Mr. White applied for costs, when the plaintiff's solicitor called up an old man in rags, and remarked that this was the plaintiff against whom an attorney applied for costs after receiving his (plaintiff's) money. The judge said it was certainly not a case for costs.

The case of Swinfen v. Swinfen, which has excited some interest, turns in its present stage upon the right of counsel engaged in a cause to settle the matter without the authority of his client, and upon the validity of such settlement if effected. It is alleged that Sir Frederick Thesiger thus compromised a cause in which he held a brief, and the terms agreed to by him are now repudiated by his client. Few people will admire the manner in which Mr. Kennedy, the present counsel for Mrs. Swinfen, thought fit to attack Sir Frederick for his conduct in the matter. If, as is held by the other side, Sir Frederick acted by authority of his client, there will be no doubt that it is now too late to repent the arrangement. The case has led to some popular inquiry as to the rights of counsel. To understand this, it is only necessary to be informed of the nature of an advocate's responsibilities and of the services required of him. When a barrister receives a brief in a cause with a fee, the latter is expressly given for him to argue the case only. He need not even advise his client thereon, unless specially required and paid so to do. Should he advise wrongly, misconduct, or even desert his cause, he is not liable to be called upon for any

recompense, or even for a return of his fees. It must therefore be clear, that as it settles the action without consulting the wishes of his client, he not only does an act not contemplated in his engagement, but does the labour for which he has been paid in advance, such an act would be beyond the limits of his trust, and therefore void. A settlement of an act not by the attorney would be a different kind of case; the attorney is responsible to the client. But it is not usually to be held, that the attorney is to be held responsible to the client for his own settlements. It is said that Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Bates are about to bring an action under the privilege of that great national institution, the law society system. The effect of this will be to show a solemn judicial action under the aspect of a silly farce. Of course "good evidence" must be the alleged excuse for this proceeding. What was expected of the advocates except good conduct, where there was no temptation to misbehaviour? Three men, whose position and education as gentlemen and barristers afforded them an opportunity, which they embraced, to swindle and plinge all who trusted them, are to be let off with a nominal punishment, because they do not swear and fight in jail, cheat the turnkeys, or assault the chaplain! When they are released, we would humbly suggest the invitation to a *soirée* to be given by their defrauded and ruined depositors, at which congratulations suitable to the occasion could be offered them on their return to liberty. As for Sir John Dean Paul, it would be easy to guess from his antecedents what the effect of the remission will be to him. He will profess immense repentance for his "error," and at the same time not omit to cast the real blame upon a combination of misfortunes, against which no caution could have availed. Should he do this, and secure the assistance of a cambrie handkerchief and a few judiciously chosen and well-disposed texts, he will succeed in making a respectable and by no means inconsiderable minority believe in him as a much-injured man, after all.

At Braintree, the landlord of an inn (the Bird-in-Hand), certainly not a member of a profession popularly suspected of unnecessary Puritanism, presented a costermonger with a donkey for the fulfilment of a promise not to swear or use profane language for six months. A popular opinion was accorded to the reformed swearer. This suggests a subject which the lower classes and their friends would do well to consider. For some years past the language of the vulgar has become so frightfully debased and disgusting, that it is absolutely painful and disgusting to listen to their ordinary familiar conversation. Not a sentence and scarcely an adjective escape their lips without some filthy or repulsive expletive, not merely brutal but usually utterly meaningless and nonsensical as applied. With or without reference to the religious point of view, the practice is equally vicious, stupid, and odious. The landlord of the Bird-in-Hand, as the first to attempt to check its continuance, is a man who deserves well of his neighbours.

An action in the Queen's Bench, tried last week, serves not only to throw a light upon the style of business not infrequently carried on under distress for rent, but also to exhibit the remedy which the law supplies in some similar cases. A tenant, owing £35 for rent, had his furniture, valued at £100, seized and taken to an auction place in Whitechapel. The sale was only advertised on the morning of the taking place, and was confined (in the usual way) to the brokers. It came out that this kind of thing has a technical name, to wit, that of "slaughering." The sale realised £42. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff with £65 damages, "subject to a deduction of £11 to prevent further litigation." Let us hope that the plaintiff will recover the money, which in the present instance we have no reason whatever to doubt. Be it in a considerable number of cases, where the brokers are men of straw, with beggarly shops, receiving their commission from wealthier speculators, who take the profits but thrust the risk on to the shoulders of their tenants, in whose names the distresses are made—where is the unfortunate debtor to look for compensation? It may, however, be questionable whether if a satisfactory charge of a nomination to allow for articles to be bought without competition or to run up prices against strangers, could be established against the leading brokers, they would not be liable to criminal prosecution for conspiracy. We think they would.

Mr. Henry Potter (of the West London Union) attended before Sir R. W. Carden, and stated, that having had occasion for the last eight months to pass a building called the Samaritan Institution, in West Street, Southfield, established expressly to give food and shelter to the houseless poor, he felt it his duty to state that during that time he had never seen it used except as a residence (with coach-house and stable) for Mr. Barber, the secretary. On Monday, Mr. Horsfall, a solicitor, attended before Sir R. W. Carden to vindicate the society, which he alleged to be about to be re-opened for the season, after having been closed during the months when assistance was least required. It came out, however, that the name of the Lord Mayor had been used in connection with it, and Mr. Barber (the secretary) admitted that there must be some mistake about this. Police evidence was called, and given adversely to the institution. Sir R. Carden said, that he thought the public would be able to judge as to its merits from what had transpired; whereupon Mr. Barber threatened to bring the matter before a superior court. How he can do so upon statements in a public court, which he attended with professional assistance to rebut, yet remains to be seen.

POLICE.

RATHER ANNOYING.—A gentleman, who gave his name and address J. A. Frankhurski, of Claremont House, Bayswater, applied to Mr. Beaton, at the Marlborough police-court, for his assistance under these circumstances.—Some person or persons had assumed his name, and had put advertisements in the papers, offering to tell fortunes and calculate nativities. The consequence was that his house was besieged with personal applications and letters, so that, in fact, all privacy and comfort was at an end. Now, he was himself a private gentleman of fortune, his wife was an English lady, and as neither pretended or professed to have any knowledge of futurity, they wished to know whether they could not have some protection from the annoyance which they now sustained. The applicant then handed to the Magistrate a couple of advertisements from some paper, which were headed, "Courtship made easy, or the way to win a lover," and "The future revealed and nativities calculated." The first advertisement was as follows:—

"Madame Frankhurski will send to any address plain directions to enable ladies or gentlemen to win the affections of as many of the opposite sex as their hearts may desire. The proposal is simple but captivating and enthralling, that all may be married irrespective of appearance, age, or position. Young and old, peer or peasant, as well as the peasant, and it can be managed so that detection is impossible."

"The other was:—
"Are you in affliction? Is your loved one absent? Are you in doubt as to your future happiness in life? In fact, are you desirous of knowing the future respecting yourself, or anyone in whom you are interested? Applicants are desired to apply to Madame or Professor Frankhurski, at 25, Chapel Street, enclosing for the first twenty-four stamps, for the second, a fee of 2s. 6d."

The applicant stated that on application at Chapel Street, no one of the name of Frankhurski was to be found, but applicants were referred to Claremont House, his own residence.

The Magistrate was afraid that he had no power to render assistance in this case. He believed, however, that publicity would effect all that the applicant wished.

A GAROTTER IN PETTICOATS.—Elizabeth Dargan was charged with being concerned with four men in a daring garrotte robbery.

Mr. William Henry Dawson, a solicitor's clerk, detailed the particulars of the robbery. He said that at twenty minutes past ten on Saturday night he was coming through the Belgrave Road, Piccadilly, when he was accosted by the prisoner, who asked him to give her something to drink. He told her that he wished to have nothing whatever to do with her. He was proceeding home when he observed two suspicious fellows near him, and in the next moment was seized by the throat and nearly deprived of breath. The prisoner and a man then came in front of him, and tearing his great coat open, commenced rifling his pockets. He struggled violently, and succeeded in taking his purse, with some gold in it, out of his trousers pocket, and holding it tightly in his hand. Prisoner tried all her efforts to open his hand, while the man in front of him took some loose silver from his pocket, and ran off. Prosecutor was enabled, by great exertion, to call murder, and in less than two minutes some gentlemen and a policeman came to his assistance; but the gang had made off all but the prisoner. He held her tightly by the arm, and succeeded in preventing her escape.

A Constable said he heard a cry of "Murder," and, accompanied by several people, ran to the spot, where he found prisoner struggling with the prosecutor, and took her from him. Prisoner was remanded for a week.

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